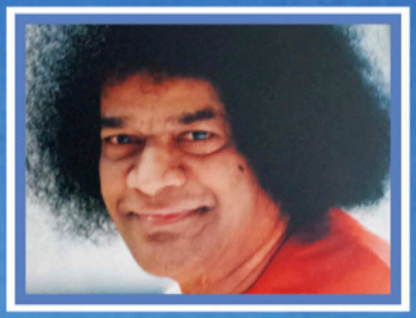

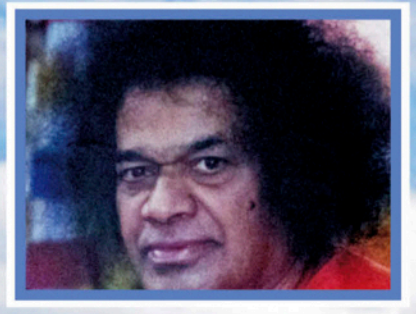

Miraculous Journeys with Sai Ma

C. R. Rajeswaran

Miraculous Journeys with Sai Ma

Miraculous Journeys with Sai Ma

Dedicated To the Lotus Feet of our
Beloved Lord

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

On the 89th year of His Advent

C.R. Rajeswaran

Attorney - At -law
Of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka,
Former Chief Legal officer and
Commercial Manager,
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,
Chairman Central Freight Bureau of
Sri Lanka.

Statue of Our Beloved Swami at Sai Malar

QUOTES FOR THOUGHT

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"
(John 3.16)

"I am the way, the truth and life no man cometh to the father except through me"
(John 14.6)

"My tomb shall bless and speak to the needs of the devotees"
(Shirdi Sai Baba)

"From God we all merge and to God we shall return"
(Holy Quran)

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First Edition – 23rd November 2014

Layout and printed by,
M/s.Seshaasai E Forms Pvt. Ltd.,
Bengaluru

Om Sri Sai Ram

INTRODUCTION

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has a galaxy of devotees in this world belonging to various nationalities, races and religions. Swami gave Himself to all His devotees who asked Him for His blessings. Swami in His physical form sacrificed His life to serve humanity

Many devotees who had read my first book **"Bhagawan and myself"** coaxed me to write a follow up of the miracles of Swami in our home forgetting the fact that I was only an instrument in writing the book. One day I was in the shrine room of our home and a sudden and compelling thought flashed through my mind. I felt that I was being told to write a second book. I brushed aside the thought and shelved the idea but the thought kept recurring. Being surrounded by too many personal matters, I had no plans to write another book but finally I submitted myself to the requests of the devotee friends to share my experiences.

With great reluctance I started my work on the second book. I thought of giving the title as "**Bhagawan and myself – part II"**. However Swami had other plans. He wanted the book titled **"Miraculous journeys with Sai Ma"** and I was completely overwhelmed with Swami's direction.

Most of what is in this book are a baffling chain of uncommon and astonishing episodes of happenings after the publication of my first book. I have divided the book under two main headings, episodes which occurred before our Swami's Maha Samadhi and episodes which occurred post Maha Samadhi.

Most of the episodes are personal barring one or two experiences of other devotees whom we have met. I hasten to add that these episodes are not pages from Aesop's fables. In fact some of the episodes have been diluted to avoid readers from crucifying them as unbelievable. In most of these episodes we have photographic and other evidence for the doubters, investigators to see for themselves the truth. Some other episodes may appear trivial and small yet they are included to strengthen the faith of devotees reading them.

I have also attempted to give the devotees a bird's eye view of some of Swami's teachings. However I am conscious of my inability to profound the spiritual messages in those teachings.

Many had thought that with Swami leaving His physical form no more miracles would occur. The episodes that have occurred in our home and narrated in this book are proof enough of Swami's divine powers.

Some even asked what differences will occur now that Swami is physically not present and who would replace

Him and whether it is necessary to pilgrimage to the Abode of Peace in Puttaparthi.

To them, the millions of His devotees' world over would say in unison that the absence of Swami's physical form has not diminished His powers. In fact He is now more powerful and is able to enhance His miracles more than ever before. There are thousands of houses of devotees where His miracles are occurring. Ignorant people even belittle Him and vilify Him, character assassinates Him in the print and the visual media, because He is making miracles happen. To them there can be no God in human form. This is a fallacy, for; Buddha, Christ and Allah were the past masters in human form. The aim of these people is to disintegrate the Sai Organization. In the past, Researchers and Scientists had attempted unsuccessfully to disprove His miracles but in the end they became Swami's devotees having failed in their attempt. These adversaries can only accumulate sin by their actions but to those who adore Swami, He is divinity.

What is necessary then for these non-believers of Swami is to become Swami's followers and experience the bliss rather than go beyond to investigate Him.

To those followers who have decamped the Organization, Swami has said "**Never give up the Sai Organization. Regard it as the breath of your life".**

I have also refrained from disclosing some episodes as I did feel that Swami would not have granted me

permission to do so. It is Swami's grace which prompted me to write this book and I have been given this opportunity to present His divine plays.

In conclusion let me quote the Holy Bible: - "**EXCEPT YE SEE SIGNS AND WONDERS, YE WILL NOT BELIEVE"**

This quotation is to those who say that Swami is not making miracles happen now after he has attained Maha Samadhi.

Swami's miracles continue and whatever He does is beyond our understanding. Why then question His acts?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to Sister Anita de Silva for the persistent and patient attention in spending days and hours in correcting and typing the final manuscript of this book despite her activities in the church.

I thank Sai sisters Monal and Tanvi in Bombay who coordinated the designing of the cover page with Mythili at short notice working in between their daily routine, constantly changing the design as required by Swami now and then.

Dr. Dharam Maudgal who is also my physician and Dr. Neelam both of the Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi deserve a very special mention for writing the foreword to this book. Dr Dharam Maudgal for his immeasurable assistance in having my first book translated in the Spanish Language for the benefit of the Latin American devotees.

I profusely thank Brother Rajesh Desai, Electrical Engineer in charge of the Super Speciality Hospital, Puttaparthi who has been of immense help in arranging for the translation and printing of my first book "Bhagawan and myself" into Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi languages.

My gratitude to Brother Rajesh Desai, Mrs.Kalpana Desai and Dr.Neelam for their watchfulness in proof reading the final manuscript of this book.

Sri.Anand Bulusu, a creative person, was responsible for the presentation layout, bordering, and many other finishing touches in making this book ready in such a short span of time. He cannot be forgotten for his contribution in the launching of Sai Malar web site as well.

I graciously thank Dr.Neelam for placing this book for Swami's blessing at His Maha Samadhi in Sai Kulwant hall

I offer my grateful thanks to M/s.Seshaasai E Forms Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru for the printing of this book at short notice despite their other pressing assignments.

Sai Ram

C. R .Rajeswaran

23rd November 2014

FOREWORD - 1

The Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent Bhagawan promised in Geeta to Arjuna that HE reincarnates from time to time whenever there is decline in Dharma. Apart from several partial manifestations HE incarnated as Lord Rama in Treta Yuga and Lord Krishna in Dwapara Yuga as Poorna Avatara in the present time of Kali Yuga, He has already incarnated in human form twice and the mankind is eagerly waiting to hear the declaration of HIS third incarnation as foretold by no other than Himself. Even when HE manifests in the human form He carries all HIS powers with Him and manifests them as necessary in different situations that baffles the human mind. Such incidences observed by millions of people are best called as HIS Miracles or Leelas by His devotees and magic or some other tricks by non-believers.

As declared by HIM in the Geeta, He incarnates to re-establish Dharma in our daily lives by leading and guiding us on the right path while living amongst us as one of us.

HE is the Divine Mother and Divine Father to us and all other creation around us. This book **"Miraculous Journeys with Sai Ma"** describes so many incidents where Divine Mother **"Sai Ma"** looks after, guides and Protects devotees in their daily life under different circumstances such as serious accidents, illnesses and embarrassing situations to mention a few.

Throughout His physical sojourn on earth (1926 to 2011) He tirelessly taught us how to live a righteous life to get closer to that Divine source from whom we all originated in the first place as a tiny spark of HIM. That tiny spark has all the characteristics of the Divine just as a drop of water from the ocean has all the characters of the water of the whole ocean. In "**Sai Malar Centre in Colombo", Sai Ma's** presence is felt by all devotees attending that centre even today as much as it was before 2011. Indeed such presence without the form of Sai Ma with Her children (Devotees) has been reported from so many other parts of the world too. HE is beyond Time and Space irrespective whether is with a form or without form. He is ever available to guide and help us to develop and practise core Human Values of **"Sathya, Dharma, Prema, Shanti and Ahimsa**" i.e Truthfulness, Righteousness, Love, Peace and Non-Violence in our daily life. Selfless Love is the undercurrent for these Human Values. He has advised all and shown by HIS Divine example how to live a truly righteous life from His own example practising the two cardinal mottos of **"HELP EVER, HURT NEVER"** and **"LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL"** that will lead us to our real goal of human birth to realise our **"Innate Divinity or Self Realisation".**

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FOREWORD - 2

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's physical departure put millions of his devotees into despair, gloom. The all knowing and all loving Bhagawan through leelas of different kinds assured His devotees that His physical absence was translating into a bigger and grander play where devotees were going to experience joy and bliss of a different kind.

Truly when one goes through the pages of this book, the reader is delighted and reassured that their Beloved Swami is very much amidst them and still answering their prayers and solving their problems.

There are more than 5000 centre's all over the globe where Swami is showing His OMNIPRESENCE and it will be no exaggeration on my part to say that one is hearing of more miracles nowadays than yore, as if the physical frame (body) limitation being off, Swami has become more Universal. He is one Avatar who moved among the masses and the common man unlike the previous Avatars who were accessible to selected few. Thus you see every second person has come into contact with Bhagawan and has a story or miracle to tell.

It is this quality of Our Beloved Bhagawan which endears Him to one and all and each individual when he or she reads can relate to the event as if they are actually experiencing the whole event. Credit for this also goes to author for his simplicity and frankness while narrating the incidents. At no point in time the author claims to be

an ardent devotee who has gathered the privilege of BHAGAWAN'S proximity, but he is as skeptical and unsure of Bhagawan's next move as any ordinary common man and does not fail to convey to us his dilemmas in certain situations to nearly losing faith in Bhagawan.

This helps the reader to once again feel one with the author and his predicaments.

We pray to Bhagawan to continue this delightful journey and allow us, His children to participate and partake this joyous journey where at the end of the road He is waiting to receive us to take us all to His Holy Heavenly abode.

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India

EPISODES PRIOR TO THE MAHA SAMADHI

The Foiled Attack

In May 2005, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a rebel organization in Sri Lanka had acquired small glider planes to fight the Government security forces in their long struggle for a separate state in Sri Lanka. This was the beginning of the peak period of the rebel activity.

On the night of the 04th May 2005, news got around that two of these glider planes had discreetly entered the airspace over Colombo, the capital city, and were intending to bomb a few economic targets such as the sea port, petroleum storage tanks and thereby cripple the government and intimidate them to concede to their demands.

The security forces were equally alert and having anticipated such an attack after the state military intelligence had warned, got into action. The army personnel with all the fire power were on top of most of the high rise buildings and commenced firing at the intruding glider planes. There was fierce noise of gun fire at a time when the whole city was asleep. The sky in the area where we lived was crimson in colour with crisscross firing. The noise was such that the whole area was rudely awakened. We feared the worst as our house was in the high security zone where most important government officials resided.

Out of sheer curiosity, I attempted to go out onto the balcony to view the two glider planes flying over our house. If these planes were spotted by the security forces

and fired at, there was every possibility of the planes crashing down on the houses and engulfing them in flames. I was prevented from going out on to the balcony by my family. More so, the city had been blanketed under a cover of darkness with power supplies cut off, to avoid the terrorist planes identifying their targets for bombing.

Suddenly there was a scream from one of the bedrooms in our home. There was so much panic as I rushed into the room. I noticed a spent bullet on the ground within a foot of the bed of my daughter. She seemed terrified as the bullet had pierced the roof and then the ceiling with a loud noise before it hit the floor making a dent on it. Had the trajectory of the bullet been towards the bed, undoubtedly she would have suffered serious injuries. It was a repetition of the Sai Gayatri mantra which saved the situation. The air raid was foiled and the planes hurried back to their base in the jungles when they realized that it was not easy to fight the security forces who had superior gun power.

The next morning the print media splashed headline stories of the foiled attack. The media also had a shocking story of young doctor who incidentally was a Swami devotee and who had been hit by a stray bullet while he was resting in his house. He had been critically injured as he told us at a Satsang recently that there were three surgeries done by eminent Surgeons in an attempt to prevent oozing from a wound in the abdomen. These surgeries never helped him and so he had to keep changing the dressing every now and then. He finally

decided to make a pilgrimage to Puttaparthi. He went in to the room allocated to him in the ashram. He had a quick shower and decided to change the dressing of the wound. Lo and behold! there was no oozing matter on the dressing for the first time. He rushed for darshan to the Sai Kulwant hall and saw Swami in the next two days he was in Puttaparthi. There was absolutely no need to change the dressing as the wound had healed on its own.

This Doctor after returning from “Prasanthi Nilayam” and having fully recovered related his miraculous escape from the jaws of death by the grace of Swami. He is today working as a surgeon at a hospital in Sri Lanka.

Car Parts

During my pilgrimage to India in the year 2007, I had a special experience which reinforces the fact that Bhagawan is always there watching over us.

It has been a routine practice to purchase spare parts for my Indian manufactured car before I return home. Spare parts sold by the agents back in Sri Lanka are very expensive due to the exchange rate of the Sri Lankan rupee and the heavy taxes imposed by the government on vehicle spare parts. In this instance the particular spare part I was looking for was not available even with the agents in Sri Lanka. I was ruminating over the urgent need to have that particular spare part for my car.

I went to the agents of the car manufacturer in Chennai and to a few other motor spare part shops to buy few items. I got all what I required except the air filter unit which was out of stock in Sri Lanka also. Without this unit I would not have been able to use the car.

Coming back to the hotel we were repacking our bags when I discovered to my astonishment an air filter unit and a pair of new mud flaps near our bags identical to the ones I was looking for.

I was gratified as it is undoubtedly Swami who did the shopping for me. Indeed it was His gesture of grace.

The Tenant

In the year 2007, I had a tenant who maintained an office in a part of my house. However there came a time when her business went dull. In addition she had, as I learnt later, borrowed a large sum of money from a customer and had not done her work for which the money was paid in advance. Since the lender was after her, she kept away from her office and when it became impossible to keep away continuously, she took flight to another country leaving her stenographer in charge of the office. She had not told me about her intended departure for fear that I would have asked her to vacate the premises. When I heard that she was missing from my apartment I questioned her stenographer and she refused to divulge details stating that she did not know the whereabouts of her employer. I was in a catch twenty two situation and by this time the police had been alerted by the customer of this tenant and they were telephoning me for details of the tenancy. This placed me in a perilous predicament.

Unfortunately, it was at this time that I had arranged for a review of my illness by the doctors at Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi. This visiting doctor was on service at the Hospital and was due to return to his country shortly. Hence I could not postpone my visit. I had already obtained the visa to visit India and had purchased the airline tickets as well. The airline refused to postpone my date of travel as there were heavy bookings for weeks ahead. In this plight I had nobody to turn to other than Swami. I heard a voice in my mind tell me that I should not postpone my visit to India and that

Swami would look after the issue of my tenant. Half heartedly, we made our journey in order to keep the appointment with the Doctor. While in India I was turning over the problem in my mind and I felt that Swami was constantly assuring me that everything would be sorted out.

While in Puttaparthi, I was communicating with a neighbour who was a Lawyer in Sri Lanka and who readily undertook to help me in my absence. Despite Swami's assurances, there was not a day when I was not tensed up. If my tenant did not vacate, I would have to spend considerable time and money in litigation. The tender hearted Lord came to my rescue at a very opportune moment. Prior to leaving Puttaparthi for Sri Lanka, I received a telephone call from the lawyer neighbour stating that she had been successful in coaxing my tenant's office staff to remove all their belongings from my premises and vacate on the pretext of her wanting to establish an office for herself in the apartment.

It was then that I recollected Swami's assurance that everything would be alright.

Deepavali

In 2009 for the Deepavali festival all preparations were being made for the devotees who were to attend the bhajans that evening. Swami is known to play with His devotees and few hours before the bhajan, Swami indicated that there should be a cake to celebrate the occasion. This was a flash out of the blues as it was too short a notice for anybody to bake a cake. We were troubled as to how we could comply with Swami's directions. Within a few hours, we had in the shrine room a beautiful cake decorated and all indications were that it had been brought from a well-known restaurant in Puttaparthi. Our long desire to fulfill Swami's wish had indeed been fulfilled by the Lord Himself.

At this time, one morning we found in the shrine room a cardboard cylindrical roll, the contents of which we guessed could be life sized photographs of Swami. On removing the cover we discovered that the roll contained indeed some of the most rare photographs of Swami and His message was that they were to be framed in the next two days and kept at a prominent place in the living room. It was a task beyond the bounds of possibility. However to our amazement, when we went to a picture framing shop the man at the counter said that although he had many orders to execute, he would undertake the framing and give them to us in two days at no extra price.

Once again it was Deepavali festival the next year and as usual a number of devotees were due to attend the

bhajan. Swami had repeatedly asked us to distribute some Indian sweets after the bhajan. We had in the midst of all our work forgotten about Swami's instructions. However on the evening of the date of the bhajan, Swami in His kindness brought to us a large box of sixty pieces of piping hot jalebi's which He said had been made by His students at Puttaparthi out of love for Him for the celebrations. The strange feature was that there were fifty nine devotees who attended the bhajan that day and the last jalebi was on Swami's plate!

Doctor in Service - Dr.Ganesh

Unknowingly I had been corresponding with Swami and receiving His replies. Here is the Divine play as it unfolds.

In May 2009, I had several e-mails from the Gastroenterology department of the Super Speciality Hospital at Puttaparthi wanting to know the progress after taking the medicine given by them following the endoscopy done in 2008. I took these e-mails as routine e-mails to all patients who have been treated by the hospital and hence did not consider the e-mails as needing any response. However I sent off hand replies now and then. These mails are preserved by me for verification by doubters and skeptics.

Once again I began having a few bouts of minor ailments after the endoscopy and my family Doctor in Sri Lanka advised me that this was due to stress and I was advised to reduce my work load and relax. In June 2009 I had another e-mail. This was from "Doctor in service – Dr. Ganesh" of the Gastroenterology department of the Super Speciality Hospital at Puttaparthi, introducing himself as the doctor who had arrived from Australia for service at the hospital till the 15th of July. He asked me for my progress, which I considered as a follow up of the earlier e-mails.

After making inquiries about my Gastric disorder, he recommended that I take the medicine prescribed at the stated times and warned me to be careful of my food

habits. He also asked me whether I had any other health drawbacks and in reply I had stated that there were no other snags overlooking the fact that I had slightly higher blood pressure also.

Then came another e-mail from Dr.Ganesh stating that Swami had come to the Gastroenterology Department on the day of the first anniversary of the opening of the Department. Swami had gone through 100 reports of patients who had under gone endoscopy tests the previous year and among them was my report. The next e-mail stated that Swami had asked Dr.Ganesh whether he was in touch with me frequently. The Doctor as a follow up of Swami's questions to him indicated to me that in the event of any difficult situation arising I should contact the Super Speciality Hospital. In the next e-mail the Doctor asked me when I would be pilgrimaging to "Prasanthi Nilayam" so that if need be more tests could be arranged for and that to his knowledge Swami had never taken such a keen interest in case of the other patients.

In a further e-mail Dr.Ganesh stated that during darshan one day Swami had told him that I had blood pressure as well. Swami had also asked him whether he was in communication with me to which the Doctor had replied in the negative and said that he would ask me to forward to him a report of the pressure count taken for five days. When this was sent, the Doctor's reply to me was that the reports were not clear and that the Super Speciality Hospital had more modern equipments' than those available at hospitals in Sri

Lanka. The doctor also prescribed medication for blood pressure. I expressed my deep indebtedness for the keen interest that was being taken.

In an amazing e-mail the doctor said that Swami had again asked how I was progressing and had materialized a ring for him.

On the 17th of June the doctor's e-mail to me stated that Swami had mentioned "This bangaru had a volcano in his body. This body of his is now healed". 'The Doctor also said, "I guess that you get angry for the slightest thing". He further said that Swami had also told him that I conduct poojas for him and had smiled and moved away. 'Swami is having an eye on your health' wrote the doctor.

At about this time I had developed a stubborn cough which was giving me a piercing pain in a localized area just below the ribs each time I coughed. Further, the cough did not respond to any medicine prescribed by my family doctor in Sri Lanka for weeks.

Hence with great reluctance I decided to make a pilgrimage to Puttaparthi to meet Dr.Ganesh who had been constantly in touch with me. I asked the Doctor to forward to me an e-mail permitting me to enter the hospital, which he did but on condition that I do not ask for him by name at the hospital gate when I arrived there.

On arrival at Puttaparthi I had also high blood pressure coupled with the persisting cough vomiting and shivering. The Doctor at the General Hospital decided that I needed to have an ultra sound scan to determine the cause of the severe pain in the rib cage.

The next day after the scan was done at the Super Speciality Hospital I went into the adjoining Gastroenterology Department to ask for the doctor in charge. The two paramedics looked at each other and seemed baffled. Then I boldly asked them for Dr. Ganesh and they said that there was no Doctor by that name. I thought they were hiding information about Dr. Ganesh and left the hospital quite flummoxed.

The following day I needed to show my scan report to the doctor at the General Hospital who had recommended the scan. Fortunately for me the scan did not show any serious abnormality. While perusing through the other reports in my medical file the doctor stumbled on the copy of the e-mail from the Super Speciality Hospital asking me to be present at the Gastroenterology Department. He read the e-mail and looked startled and angry and asked me who in the Department had sent the e-mail. I was taken aback and was compelled to reveal the name as Dr.Ganesh. The Doctor who asked me this question, I later learnt was Dr. Dharam and he is from the U.K and is one of the best doctors in the field of Gastroenterology. He was also on service in the hospital from June 2009 and he told me abruptly that there was no such Dr.Ganesh in the Gastroenterology Department and that he was the one

in charge of that department. Further he said that the hospital does not send e-mails to its patients. I felt ashamed for a thought flashed through my mind. Could it be that Dr.Dharam had assumed that I had tried a ruse to gain entry into the Super Speciality Hospital by doctoring that e-mail inviting me to come? However in a few moments the doctor smiled and his assistant gave me vibhooti. It was then that I realized that the e-mail in question had been of divine origin.

The divine origin of these e -mails were confirmed when I went back to the room in the ashram. There was a message on my mobile phone which read "I am Dr. Ganesh and am at the Ashram Gate – Dr.Baba"

In retrospect, I felt cheated by the Lord who had played His leela to lure me to come to Puttaparthi. I am convinced that Swami, the compassionate one had been breeding confidence in me with the e-mails in the name of Dr.Ganesh to clear the doubt I had about my illness.

In the final analysis, it is Swami's will that prevailed at a time when I was reluctant to go to Puttaparthi, and not mine.

Car Door Opened with Auto rickshaw Ignition Key

Once I was driving at dusk with my family on a lonely stretch of road on the Marine Drive. It was a Sunday in the year 2009. I stopped at a shop to purchase a few groceries and locked the door of the car. Suddenly I realized that I had left the ignition key in the car and we were in a fix. It was getting dark and there appeared to be no motor car garage in the close vicinity to help me to open the door. I had only one option and that was to return home by an auto rickshaw to fetch the duplicate key but my wife informed me that the key to the door of our house was also in the car, in her hand bag. This was a grave situation and I was attempting to take the key out through any small opening in the windows of the car. Having failed in this attempt we were wondering as to what we should do. At a distance I saw a few auto rickshaws parked. Having observed our plight a few auto rickshaw drivers came forward and tried all methods to take the car key from inside the car by inserting wires through little openings on the glass window. However they failed and gave up hope.

Unexpectedly an old auto rickshaw driver came in his auto rickshaw and sensing that there was a problem stopped near our car and asked me whether he could help. He said confidently that it is a simple matter and that he will open my vehicle door. He proceeded to insert the auto rickshaw ignition key into the car locking system. Lo and behold the door opened in a flash much to the surprise of everyone present. My happiness was absolutely boundless.

This is another instance of Swami's good will. The auto rickshaw drivers who were present appeared dismayed. I offered the old driver some money which he refused and said he would be satisfied with ice coffee from the nearby restaurant. I brought six ice coffee glasses for the six drivers. I had given out five glasses and looked for the old man in order to give the sixth glass of coffee. There was no trace of the old man and the other drivers themselves were not aware as to how he had suddenly disappeared.

Swami had appeared to His devotees in anguish in many forms to help them and I strongly believe it was Swami who had come in the form of an old auto rickshaw driver.

Sathyam

Readers will recall the name Shreya and Bharath referred to in chapter 12 of my first book **Bhagawan and myself.** One day in October 2009, we had an inquiry from Shreya whether she could bring into our house another infant brother. We had not consented nor rejected the request. The truth is we were playing for time to answer Shreya's question. When we came back after visiting one of our relatives we found another small 'boy' about a foot or so in height sleeping on a bed. My family gave a squeal of delight on seeing this little boy.

We asked Shreya to tell us from which toy shop she had bought this little infant. She told us that a little boy had come to see Swami with his parents, when Swami had visited Hadshi in Pune to open a large and beautiful temple gifted by a devotee who had provided the necessary funding. This little boy devotee had gifted the little infant to Swami and Swami in turn gifted that little infant to Shreya. Swami named this little boy as Sathyam for Swami Himself was named so at birth by His parents.

Death of my Brother-in-law

My brother-in-law who was a doctor had been living in the ground floor of the house where we stay. His family had migrated to Canada many years ago, and he annually spent the summer holidays in Canada with the family. On the 29th of October 2009 I had a perturbing phone call from the person who cleans his apartment stating that my brother-in-law was on his bed lying down with no movement in his body. I went to his bed room and summoned a doctor from one of the nearby hospitals. However the doctor after examining him confirmed that my brother-in-law had passed away. The doctor refused my request to issue a certificate of death as he had not treated him previously.

I had asked several doctors known to me and they too said that they were unable to help unless an autopsy was conducted to ascertain the cause of death. I had no other way and the body was still lying in the room. I had no help at all and could not contact his family in Canada as all the members of the family would have been at work at that time. The body had to be dispatched to the undertakers and for this the undertaker needed the cause of death certificate.

After running around I was too tired mentally and physically spending my time in deep thought as to what I should do, whether I should consent to an autopsy without informing the family or not. I sat in my chair near the telephone. On the opposite wall was a very large picture of Swami. He had a very mischievous smile on

His face and I was saying to myself “why even Swami cannot help me”. Just then a thought dawned on me. It seemed to say why, you know Dr.Rajendra very well. Why don’t you ask him? Yes indeed I had forgotten that this doctor was a very helpful person. However I had not been in communication with him for many years and did not know his phone number. On perusing the telephone directory, I was able to trace the nursing home where he had worked. When I called the number, I observed that the number had been changed. I had therefore to seek the assistance of the Telecommunication Company and was able to talk to Dr.Rajendra on his new phone number. I faced a bitter disappointment when Dr.Rajendra said that he does not anymore work in his former Nursing Home, but he suggested that I phone another Doctor who had succeeded him in his place of work, and who, he said may be able to help me.

I decided to call this other doctor. This doctor told me that he could come and if it is possible from the available medical records of my brother-in-law he would do his utmost to help me. Though it was only a possibility yet it was indeed a blessing. When the doctor arrived the caretaker told me for the first time that my brother-in-law had been admitted to the General Hospital the previous night, and he had told the caretaker not to inform me. My brother-in-law had protested and had got himself discharged from the hospital. The doctor in charge of the ward in the Hospital had reluctantly permitted him to go and made an entry in the bed head ticket that the patient was being discharged at his own risk. This piece of evidence was the one which gave a

handle to the doctor who came home to write out the cause of the death as one due to cardiac arrest.

With this certificate in hand I was able to request the undertakers to proceed to remove the body and also I was able to inform the family members in Canada. I had spent one whole day attempting to solve the problem reciting the Sai Gayatri off and on. In retrospect, I see this as Swami's compassion. If this would not have happened in the way it did, it would have left me in serious trouble. It was Swami the eternal fountain of benevolence who saved me from the mountain of difficulties and trauma I would have undergone.

Brass Oil Lamps, Vessel, Silver Tumbler and Flower Pot

In the year 2009 we had made arrangements to celebrate the Hindu and Buddhist New Year festival which falls on the 14th of April each year. One of the items we needed for the shrine room was a brass oil lamp and a brass vessel (kalasam). We already had these two articles but we found that they were old and had been gifted to my mother from her parents. Some of the devotees came to know of our requirement and readily agreed to loan us the two articles for the bhajan next day. We decided to ask one of the devotees who lived close to our house, to loan us the oil lamps and the vessel. That night we had a strange message stating that Swami would give us these two items. To our surprise on the morning of the day of the festival there were two boxes in the shrine room left on the carpet and the message said that these are Swami's gifts to us. On opening the boxes we found that there were two large brass lamps elaborately carved, which when assembled reached a height of about two and a half feet together with a large brass vessel (kalasam) in another box. These were gold plated and were products of a famous brass factory at kumbakonam in South India as the box indicated. We thanked Swami for having given us these two gifts but had no desire to publicize this event until now. Swami always discouraged devotees borrowing and this is a fine example.

One day after the bhajan was over I was standing at the top of the flight of stairs coming up to the upper floor

and I saw in the dim light, a plant in full bloom with bunches of white flowers among the potted plants. To my recollection we never had flowering plants along the stairway. My curiosity was aroused and going down the stairs up to the plant I noticed that it was in a plastic pot, the plant and flowers were made of plastic and cloth. The flowers and the plant looked so natural and realistic.

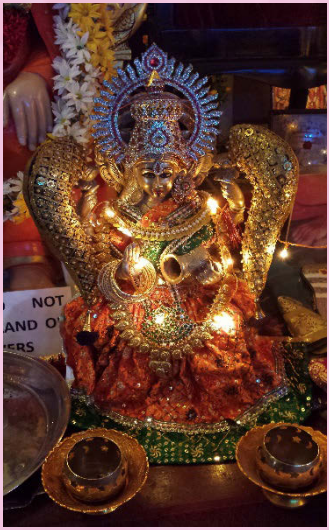
We knew it was Swami who had brought the plant as nobody else could have gained entry into the compound after the bhajan. We thought it befitting to keep the potted plant in His personal room next to His chair where it stands today.

One day in the year 2010, while relaxing after a hard day's work a thought passed through my mind and I asked Swami for any item that He had used in His younger days, as a memento. Few days later, there was in the shrine room a stainless steel tumbler which He said He had used in His child hood days. True enough the tumbler showed signs of it having been used. I was highly elated at having received this gift. This is a treasured gift indeed, more so as Swami is not now in His physical form.

Plastic Flower Pot

Mahalakshmi Statue

In the year 2009, we were to celebrate the Varalakshmi vratham festival to honour Goddess Mahalakshmi, the Goddess of wealth. The only statue of Mahalakshmi that we had at home was a statue made of plaster of Paris and we had been in the past decorating this statute on festival days. Nonetheless Swami in His grace brought to us a tall bronze statue of Mahalakshmi which He said had been used at the Aandaal Yagna at Sai Kulwant hall in Puttaparthi during the previous year's festival. This statue is a beautiful one with sharp features and is very heavy to carry and how such a heavy statue arrived in the shrine room remains an amazing mystery. We were startled by His omniscience. Swami also gave us two more statues of goddess 'Annapoorni' and 'Shakthi' in later years.(see photographs on the next page)



Mahalakshmi Statue and other Devi Statues gifted by Swami

Chinese New Year

During the Chinese New Year in 2010 Swami wanted us to decorate the shrine room and the hall with typical Chinese lanterns. Bhajans for the Chinese New Year usually fall at the end of January each year. We were nonplussed as to how we were going to find these lanterns in Sri Lanka and this was on the eve of our departure to Puttaparthi. We had hardly any time to shop for the lanterns even in the few Chinese fancy shops. Swami made it possible to help us with not only Chinese lanterns but other Chinese decorative material as well. To our wonder, He gave directions to share the Chinese sweets which He had received from the Chinese devotees who had arrived at Puttaparthi that year for the celebrations there. When this was told to the devotees at our center they were filled with joy.

Ladies Day 2010

In November 2010 the ladies day celebrations was to be conducted with a quiz program as had been done in the past. We had given small gifts to the first three lady devotees who scored high marks in the questions given to them. These gifts are given to encourage the lady devotees to read more literature on Swami and His teachings. Consequently there was much enthusiasm among the lady devotees and also competition in a bid to score high marks.

A few weeks before the ladies day celebrations in 2010, I received a note in the post that there was a box of books at the parcels counter of the General Post Office. When I called at the post office, I learnt that the box contained a number of Swami's diaries, wall and desk calendars for the year 2011, much sought after items by His devotees. Be that as it may, a minor employee at the parcels counter whispered to me that such items would attract a high rate of customs duty since he presumed that they would be for commercial use. I assured him that the diaries and calendars were for distribution among the Sai devotees, free of charge and not for sale. He seemed not satisfied and said that if he was given Rupees One thousand he could enter a small payment of duty of rupees fifty in the official receipt to be given to me in order that I may clear the parcel. To impress upon me I saw him through the glass partition speaking to a senior officer. Whether his talk to the senior officer was for the purpose of reducing the duty or not, I could not gather.

At this point in time I needed to make a quick decision as to whether I was going to take the very valuable gifts or leave them to be taken by the post office staff if I did not pay the rupees thousand demanded. Since the name of the sender was not mentioned on the box except the words “from Prasanthi Nilayam” I presumed and had every reason to believe that these expensive complimentary gifts had been sent at Swami’s command, and hence decided to pay the money demanded. I prayed to Swami to forgive me for paying the money as demanded by the minor employee.

Swami never encouraged payment of graft but I had no alternative way to take charge of the valuable gifts. When I came home the message on the board said that the person should never have asked money for the Lord’s books and that Swami would bring back the money I paid. True enough a thousand rupee note was on my table by that afternoon.

The Medical Specialist

In February 2011, we had returned from a pilgrimage to the Abode of our Lord in Puttaparthi. While at Puttaparthi, we did not realize that it would be our last Darshan of our Lord in His physical form. His body looked very feeble as the volunteers wheeled Him into the hall followed by His entourage. However He appeared to put on a pleasant look perhaps to satisfy His devotees. Devotees began shifting positions to catch a glimpse of their Beloved Lord. He told me in my mind on the last day of our stay at the Ashram that He will not be able to grant His devotees darshan that day as He had to go to the hospital to get His kidney dialysis done at the insistence of His students. We accepted His physical absence in the hall on that day as His health was more important to all, His devotees.

At that juncture I thought that there would be always another chance to make a pilgrimage to Puttaparthi either in the latter part of the year or in 2012 and therefore we could then have Swami's darshan.

On returning home to Sri Lanka I had a very bad frozen shoulder. This was not to be as simple as a muscular pain. I then began treating myself with pain killers and hot water fomentation and sprays. The condition seemed to worsen with more pain. This compelled me to see my family physician. The doctor confirmed that the condition was due to lifting heavy objects. She prescribed some painkillers different to the one I had already taken on my own accord and she suggested that

infra-red treatment be done for the shoulders for two days at her dispensary. This did not cure the illness either. It was then that Swami, the Medical Specialist stepped in and prescribed Meftal 500 mg tablets to be consumed three times a day after meals and left two tablets in the shrine room. Despite Swami's assurance, I was beginning to doubt whether these tablets would cure me when my family Doctor's medicine had failed. It was most stupid of me to underestimate Swami's powers. Nevertheless at the persuasion of my family, one night I took one of those tablets Swami had prescribed. Next morning the pain was gone. Swami's message indicated that what I suffered was an inflammatory condition as diagnosed by Him. On consuming the second tablet, the very next day, I was back to normal with no other complications.

Another episode of a lady devotee also reveals Swami's medical skills in an even more startling manner. Now read on.

During the Dussehra festival in 2010 just after the bhajan, it began to rain. A devotee and her friend waited till the shower ceased. After a while the rain became less incessant and the two ladies began descending the stairway. We warned them that since the steps were wet, they should descend cautiously holding on to the railings. In their hurry to get home early before the next deluge, one lady devotee who began to descend fast, missed her footing only to fall on her back and slide down a few steps before she hit the flower pots. We could not help her as it all happened in a flash.

On the surface she appeared not to have injured herself much except for a few bruises. However, she was in immense pain which originated near the end of the spinal cord. She was unable to sit down. We called for medical aid and the doctor who examined her recommended that an x-ray be taken before she could be treated.

The lady's relatives were informed and they arrived immediately. They carried her into their vehicle for her to be taken home.

Next morning on enquiring, we were informed that the x-ray showed the last bone at the end of the spinal cord was bent after the fall and hence that explained the excruciating pain and her inability to sit down. The doctor had given her pain killer tablets and a sedation to sleep.

The doctor had concluded that the tablets could give only temporary relief but the final treatment would be surgery. At this time a brother of the lady had made preparations to leave on pilgrimage to Puttaparthi and told the parents that he wished to show his sister to an orthopaedic surgeon at Chennai who was considered as one of the best specialist in the field.

The specialist at the Apollo hospital took a few more x-rays and concluded that the spinal injury may be corrected by administering an injection to that bone. He added that he could perform this under anesthesia as the lady had shown fright. The appointment for this was

fixed for the next day much to the timorousness of the patient.

That night the brother had a dream where Swami appeared and told that there was no necessity for any injection to be administered but for the brother to accompany the lady to Puttaparthi and that Swami would see her. After all, Swami had cured diseases considered by medical specialists as incurable.

She was taken to Puttaparthi amidst much difficulty in a van and in a supine position.

In Sai Kulwant hall, she was lucky enough to be accommodated at a place at the end of the aisle along which Swami would be wheeled in His chair. In her joy in getting a place at a vantage point the lady forgot herself and sat down quickly on the hard marble floor. After Swami passed that point raising His hand in benediction the lady came back to her senses and realized that she had lost that most annoying pain. She moved about in every angle and still there was no pain. After the bhajan the lady informed her brother and everybody said that it was an incredible cure. The pain had vanished completely and a later x-ray showed that the bent bone was now back to normal. This miraculous event touched me most deeply for the care shown by the divine Doctor.

We shall now read another episode from a “Thought for the Day” at our home which was read out to the devotees.

“Smt.Priya was a lecturer in a local school at Hyderabad. In 1993, she was suffering from spine cancer. She was asked to undergo surgery which is very painful. One day her neighbor Usha, who is a devotee of Swami insisted that Priya should perform Sathyanarayana Pooja. When Priya broke a coconut during the Pooja there was no water but it contained Vibhooti. Priya is a doubting Thomas. When she came to see me (Swami) in Puttaparthi in the company of her friend Usha, I asked her “Ma, do you have steady faith?”

One day at home when she was in pain, her mobile phone rang. She could not get out of her bed, but was forced to pick it up. There was a strange message “Ma, have faith. I have come, Baba”. She got up, walked towards the Pooja room. She saw several pictures covered with Vibhooti and a letter appeared in Telugu. “I am Sai Baba” and also “My footprints have appeared in Vibhooti”. Priya was shocked. She again travelled to Puttaparthi. I walked towards her and said “Ma, I had come to your house, will you look after Me?” She asked Swami “Why my house?”. I told her “I enter into houses of those who doubt and who are ill.” I told her that it was I who sent the message on the mobile phone.

Man should be free from doubt. Doubt arises from one’s own imaginations. So stop doubting. ”

A Devotee's Illness

Vani is in the medical profession. Her mother and father had travelled with us to Puttaparthi in February 2011. When they returned home to Sri Lanka her mother began to have bouts of fever in the evenings. This had become a regular feature for some days and she was being treated for the fever with common painkiller tablets and the like.

This fever never seemed to subside for some weeks. The patient became weaker with little or no intake of food and water. The sickness took a turn for the worse when she began throwing out whatever she consumed.

It was at this point in time that Vani decided to show her mother to a specialist Doctor.

Numerous tests were ordered and done. But all tests results seemed negative. What was wrong with her could not be diagnosed by several doctors who had examined her.

On medical advice, she was warded at the Government General Hospital as she could be monitored better by the doctors on duty, the nursing staff and Vani herself.

Her condition remained the same if not worse at times, as she refused food and liquids. The family was getting alarmed and suspicious that it could be a very serious illness.

Two months had gone by and the patient was still in hospital and the household work was disrupted.

A new specialist was summoned and he ordered further tests, but all these were of no avail. These tests were done much to the objection of this stubborn patient.

In addition the patient was also diabetic. The doctor had then asked that she be taken back to her home in the hope that a change of environment could improve her failing health condition. However he warned Vani that she should be administered the prescribed antibiotic at scheduled times. The patient going home did not improve her health and she was becoming aggressive at times not willing to take the medicine. In the meantime the doctor had wanted the patient warded back again at the Hospital, this time, in the intensive care unit. By now nearly two and half months had been spent in moving the patient from the hospital to her home and then back again to the hospital.

It was then that the doctor discovered that her condition was due to a very rare bacterial infection caused by consuming milk which this lady had been drinking when she was in India. Perhaps the milk she consumed had not been prepared under hygienic conditions.

Information from the hospital had leaked out, of about this new bacteria to the media. The media often go after sensational news reports for their Sunday papers. Discreetly one of the media organizations had sent a reporter to obtain copies of the patient's medical reports. However this attempt had been foiled by the Hospital staff.

Vani a devotee of Swami had all along been praying for Swami's intervention to save her mother, the patient from her deteriorating health condition. The patient was also given Swami's Vibhooti right through her illness.

Swami told Vani that the administration of the antibiotics be terminated. This was a tricky situation for Vani as she preferred to have gone along with the specialist doctor's medication.

She was in a dilemma but finally decided to stop the antibiotic having placed all her faith in Swami.

The mother ceased throwing out the little food she took but was very weak and unable to walk and had to be helped. She was confined to the bed most of the time. At this time news of Swami having attained Maha Samadhi greatly disturbed the patient and contributed to her failing health condition. She was still adamant that she would not eat for fear of throwing out the food.

Another devotee who is a friend of the family began helping the patient by feeding her. Although at the beginning nothing much was ingested but as days went by the patient began to recover and in a few weeks she came back to near normalcy, though she had to be helped in walking about in the house. Swami's grace made this patient recover at a time when the family had given up hope.

She now attends Bhajans once again at our home.

Kidney Stones

In another episode also of Swami's medical skills to cure another lady devotee is even more startling, read on.

In March 2011 a lady devotee who attends bhajans at this center regularly, began complaining of severe pain in the region of the kidneys. At her request vibhooti was given to her for consumption on every bhajan day. After some time she told us that the pain had somewhat subsided.

However not before long the pain recurred. This pain had lasted for some days. She prayed to Swami that although she had the means, she had no courage to undergo surgery let alone even lying down in a nursing home. The mention of the word surgery sent chills through her spine.

We were also getting uneasy and presumed that it could be some kidney ailment more so as some friends and devotees had expressed that opinion and also a Doctor devotee expressed the view that the symptoms were that of kidney ailment. We were experimenting with all varieties of Ayurveda remedies as the patient did not wish to see a Doctor out of fear. Even these local remedies were of no avail. Swami who had perhaps been observing the drama had a message for us. He confirmed that the excruciating pain indeed was caused by kidney stones and that there was no need for the patient to see a surgeon. Swami said He would cure the patient but that we should have full faith in Him. Next morning

strangely the patient seemed very much better with little or no pain. Swami's message read that He had performed the surgery on the patient the previous night and to prove this He had collected the two small stones in a plastic pouch and kept them on the table for us to view. These stones are now being preserved by the patient as a divine souvenir. The patient never thereafter complained of any pain and is now going about her normal duties. To cure any little discomfort that may occur thereafter, Swami requested the patient to take Vibhooti water.

It is said that there have been many instances of Swami prescribing medicine to devotees. That was why Swami is consulted by all His doctors in service at hospitals in Puttaparthi. Swami acts through the Doctors. It is also said by authors on books of Swami's miracles that some very complicated surgical cases were performed under Swami's guidance. Doctor's may suggest the medicine but the healing of the ailment is in the hands of God. Another incident of Swami prescribing medicine to a member of our household comes to my mind.

In August of 2011, I had a very bad stomach pain for nearly two days. Here again I was continuing to take the medicine prescribed by my family doctor. I seemed to be not responding to the medicine. The next day we were to attend a bhajan at a devotees house and as I was not feeling well enough I told my family that they could go along with another devotee Dr.Vani. Arrangements were made for her to come to my house and take my family members while I rested at home.

Dr.Vani came in the company of her sister Vidya. While talking to them I suddenly had a blackout. Dr.Vani coming to our house was no coincidence but seemed to have been Swami's arrangement. After administration of saline I was back on my feet next morning.

This is one of many instances of the most compassionate omniscient Swami, the incarnation of the Divinity. He knew what was to happen and sent the appropriate people to help. If not for Vani and her sister, my wife and daughter would have had great difficulty with no assistance at home.

The Automobile Mechanic

This experience occurred in the first week of January 2010.

We accompanied a group of Sai devotees on a pilgrimage to a large temple of Hanumanji in the hill country in Sri Lanka. This statue of Hanumanji made from a single boulder is over 20 feet in height, beautifully sculptured and brought from India. The journey to this temple takes nearly five hours by road from Colombo. There were ten of us in the vehicle excluding the two drivers, one of whom was a devotee of Swami.

This temple is located on top of a hill and the byroad which goes up to the temple is narrow as well as precipitous and it is this stretch that I always dreaded for on one side is a steep slope and two vehicles can hardly cross each other.

After the pooja and darshan of Hanumanji, we set off back home to Colombo.

At a place thirty kilometers from Colombo and on a fairly straight stretch of road the vehicle began making a wobbling and an odd ominous sound. The two drivers in the vehicle got off and after having inspected the tyres confirmed much to our relief that there was nothing wrong and that we could proceed. A few yards ahead the same noise was heard and this time

much louder. The drivers again got off and decided to remove the hub cap of the right rear wheel from which the sound emanated and then they discovered to our horror that four out of the six nuts holding the rim of the hub to the axle had broken off somewhere during the journey. There was no question of now proceeding any further. We needed to have the nuts replaced. Time was just past 6.00 pm and a blanket of darkness was setting in. We were stranded without any help. Had we proceeded on our journey without heeding the warning sounds, we would have been in grave danger.

As it was a Sunday, even the few garages that were open in the morning, had closed for the day.

Sister Viji, also a Sai devotee who had travelled separately in her car and who had gone ahead of us, had received a mysterious message on her mobile phone. Not knowing the sender's name, called me to ascertain whether anything had gone wrong. I then told her the situation we were placed in. Her car driver in the meantime sensing the gravity of the predicament we were in, had darted across the road on seeing a van with a mobile phone number displayed on the windscreen. However there was no driver in the van. In desperation, he finally communicated with the driver on the given mobile phone number and that driver had stated that the van was used for hiring purposes. Arrangements were made by sister Viji for all of us to travel to Colombo in that van. The two drivers of our vehicle would have had to wait till next morning to purchase the needed spare items.

This was most unfair and I told sister Viji that I did not have the mind to desert the two drivers and hence I decided to request the six lady devotees to travel to Colombo in the new van.

In the meantime, the new van had come to take us. I spoke to the driver and he said his fare to Colombo would be Rs.2,000/-. By now the time was 6.45 pm and the whole place was enveloped in darkness.

Within me I told Swami that it was He who had granted permission for us to undertake this pilgrimage and now we were stranded.

I was on the horns of a dilemma. I was concerned about the six ladies who had the option of either remaining in an unknown area in the vehicle till next morning or travel to Colombo in the new van with an unknown driver.

The driver of the new van having quoted his fare got off the vehicle and said "Why should you pay me Rs.2,000/- and also pay for the vehicle you had already used? I will see, what I can do"

With ease he opened the hub cap which the other two drivers found it difficult to do and removed the broken nuts much to our surprise. Then he took our two drivers in his van to the garage of his friend to buy the new nuts, but found that the garage had been closed for the day. He then proceeded to another garage nearby which was

about to close for the day and was able to purchase the nuts of the exact size.

When I asked the van driver his name, he told me his name was Jagath and quickly got down to the job of fixing the nuts. He worked so fast that in fifteen minutes the vehicle was ready for us to travel to Colombo. I offered Rs.1,000/- for his services but he refused to take it. I had therefore to push the note into his pocket much against his protest.

While proceeding on our journey home, Jagath called me on my mobile phone and asked me whether the vehicle was moving on without further problems. On my answering him in the affirmative, he rang off. We reached home at 8.30 pm. We were exhausted and weary. As we were climbing the stairs, we received another phone call on the mobile phone. The caller said "SAI RAM" and went further to say that he was Jagath and asked me whether we had reached home safely.

None of us could have imagined Jagath to be a devotee of Swami for he hailed from a predominantly Buddhist area and would have never heard of Swami. How then did he say "Sai Ram?"

Back home I related the difficult situation we had encountered with the vehicles to my wife who had come home earlier than us in sister Viji's car. When my daughter and I entered Swami's room awaiting us was a message on the board which read "It was I who

came as Jagath. Here, I don't need your Rs.1,000/-". The Rs.1,000/- note was lying on the kumkum heap in the shrine room.

It was then that I recollected that Swami had instructed us to leave home that day on the pilgrimage to the temple after 6.30 am. However since we had performed aarthi earlier than 6.30 am we had left home by 6.15 am on the pilgrimage. I was perplexed as to why Swami asked us to leave after 6.30 am. It became evident from the message later, on the board which read that it was to avoid the astrologically bad time " Rahu kala" and I had unintentionally disobeyed His order.

As I finished writing this episode what came to my mind was one of the stanzas in the Ashtothram reading " Aum Sri Sai Aapadbaandhavaya namah" – (we bow to the glory of Bhagawan who saves us in times of danger). Had the nuts broken off from the wheel of the vehicle on our way climbing up the hill to the temple the driver would have lost control of the vehicle and all us would have ended up in the low lying area maimed or perhaps very seriously injured. Bhagawan is always there to protect His devotees from calamities.

Swami's Omniscience, Omnipresence and Omnipotence – Short Episodes

A devotee who attends Bhajans at our center had her son and daughter-in-law arrive on a holiday and they were staying at the devotee's house. The other occupants of that house were the devotee's mother, a very old lady and her brother. Devotee's son had gone out with his wife on a tour for a few days. The room that he occupied was left open. There was however about 500 Swiss francs in the dressing table drawer which he had forgotten to take. When he returned from his holiday he remembered the money he had left in the drawer, but on opening it, he found that the money was missing.

Devotee's mother was too old and could not have pilfered it. Her brother was a highly spiritual person and could not have taken it. Suspicion grew as to who could have pilfered the money and the finger pointed to the maid who had been employed only a few weeks prior to the incident

Nevertheless the devotee and her family were not keen on asking her as that would mean they may lose the services of the maid. The Devotee came to our house a day or two later and happened to mention this incident to us. She had a message saying that it was the maid who had taken the money and that the devotee should question her. The Devotee did not wish to do so. On second thought in order prevent further losses in the

house she made up her mind and spoke with the maid gently and the maid after some time admitted that she had taken the money and returned it to the devotee. The devotee's son, had been skeptical about Swami's message. He had stated that Swami would never find the money, now asked for forgiveness from Swami.

In the same year we had a young Sri Lankan devotee from the US who had arrived on a holiday and wished to relate his experiences with Swami. We decided to invite him on the 24th of December. He spoke at length about various personal experiences. However when he went into Swami's personal room at our home, he became skeptical and asked me why Swami should have brought His personal items from "Yajur Mandir" and continued by questioning why Swami wants to have the oil lamps and other items after He left His physical form. In reply I told Him that nobody could stop Swami from bringing His personal items to whatever place He wishes to keep them in. This devotee left with questions in his mind. Next morning while we were cleaning Swami's personal room, I observed a brass statute of Lord Balaji made of heavy metal and about a foot in height on the carpet near His foot stool. The message that Swami conveyed to everyone as I understood was that even though He is physically not in form, yet He could bring any item from anywhere into any places He likes. However some still tend to entertain doubts. To them this incident is indeed a profound experience of Swami's omniscience.

We usually are against devotees bringing expensive bouquets and flowers purchased from florists. Some

devotees who live abroad request their relatives in this country to buy bouquets for Swami's functions and they send moneys for this purpose. We had always told devotees that Swami does not require such expensive bouquets and all that He wants is the love of devotees. However much the devotees are told they continued to smuggle in bouquets. For the birthday in November 2012, I had strongly advised that no bouquets should be brought and the devotees followed my request. Swami perhaps has been following the drama and to let me know that it is He who decides and not me, brought in a large bowl of many roses and had left them in His personal room. I was surprised when I saw this as a magnificent gift from the Lord as certainly nobody else could have entered the personal room which had remained locked right through the bhajan.

Upanayanam Ceremony

There was the annual Upanayanam ceremony where young brahmin aspirants are ordained into priest hood and as a sign, are given the holy thread to be worn diagonally across their chests. It is after this ceremony that the brahmin boys are permitted to conduct poojas and rituals in temples. In Puttaparthi this ceremony is usually held in the Sai Kulwant hall in the presence of Swami, for those brahmin boys in and around the village, by the priests and pandits.

In 2010, Swami left in the shrine room on a betal leaf a holy thread with a message that I should wear this thread across my chest. More than being disconcerted, I was shy and told Swami that by birth I was not a brahmin but was one grade lower than brahmins. Accordingly I had no right to wear the thread lest devotees say that I am a cheat. This thread is now kept in my wardrobe and Swami never talked to me thereafter about it.

Swami has said that nobody is a brahmin by birth. This perhaps is the reason why He gave the thread to be worn. It was only recently that I became aware that Swami had initiated youths from other castes into Priesthood. This for the reason of Swami's dictum "….. **there is no caste other than the caste of humanity."**

Swami never forgets even though it could be a long time after He had conveyed His edict. On the full moon day in July 2014, a brahmin devotee well known to us visited the center. When we offered him food he told us that all

brahmins usually attend at a temple each year on the day of the full moon in July to have the sacred thread sanctified. Swami for the second time gave me another thread to be worn saying that I needed to wear it as I recite the mantra's for Him. Should I disobey swami now? My inner voice says 'No'.

The Shivalinga

Swami has often said that He is Shiva–Shakthi roopa. In that context He told us that we needed to perform a Linga pooja as it is beneficial to the advancement of spirituality. We had with us a very small Linga made of wood. This Linga was too small and old. Swami had also materialized a number of sphatika Linga's at our center in the previous years and these were very small.

Swami in His benevolence left a box in the shrine room which contained a large glass sphatika linga and when vertically placed was about eight inches in height cushioned with cotton wool. This linga is usually placed on a pedestal. We were concerned as to how we could get such a pedestal made of metal. Inquiries revealed that such a pedestal out of metal would cost a tidy sum and would be over One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Rupees. We hence decided to purchase the pedestal in India on our next pilgrimage to Puttaparthi. Swami had wanted the Linga pooja performed but we could not place the sphatika linga erect without a pedestal. A few days later there was a beautifully carved pedestal made of brass with a hooded cobra meant to form an umbrella over the Linga. We placed the sphatika linga in the holder of the pedestal and it fitted perfectly with the cobra hood over it. This precisely is what we had seen in most Siva temples in India. The difference is that those Lingas are made of solid rock and are much bigger. (see picture on the opposite page).

Sphatika Lingam with Pedestal and Hooded Cobra

Sri Chakra

Swami said in a thought for the day "Today the most powerful Sri Chakra was installed in this center". There is a story behind the installation of the Sri Chakra at this center.

Lord Shiva in the beginning of time, the scriptures say, gave the world sixty four Chakras and the mantras for each of them for the attainment of spirituality and Sri Chakra is the highest form of the worship of his consort Devi.

Reverting to the bringing of the Sri Chakra to this house let me now tell you the story.

A member of the household fell dangerously ill. No amount of medicine or medical assistance was of any use. One of the members of the household had a dream wherein Swami appeared and walked into the shrine room. Swami then called the members of the family and said that soon they would get a Sri Chakra. The family saw a garland around the picture of Swami rise up while Swami walked away and thought that soon the sick person would be cured. However the patient continued to be sick.

A few days later a message appeared on the board. By that time the members had forgotten about the dream. The message merely said Devi is coming and for a few days thereafter the message continued to appear.

Renganathan arrived from Bombay a few days later and to the utter amazement he brought with him the Sri Chakra of Devi. The family looked at each other when he also brought a framed picture of Devi. He continued to say that Swami had prompted him to bring with him the Sri Chakra and the picture. Swami in His love also brought to us a large bronze statue of goddess Raja Rajeswarai (Devi) and we placed more value on this semi-precious stone studded statue and the Sri Chakra.

When the dream was mentioned to Renganathan his eyes welled with tears. He was surprised as he was never aware of the dream experienced by the member of the family.

The message that day read “Devi has come” and I was requested to relate this story to devotees who came for bhajan on the next day. Dreams related to Swami are hardly disclosed to others but much to the embarrassment of the family the Lord’s order was carried out.

The Sri Chakra needs to be kept in a clean place and Poojas performed regularly. This pooja is also performed in a grand manner with a homam by a priest in our home annually in the presence of devotees. (See picture on next page)

The patient who was very ill then recovered miraculously in the next few weeks after the first pooja for the Sri Chakra.

Sri Chakra Pooja in progress

The 'Dharmasala' Seva

Most devotees would be aware of a neatly laid out dining room to accommodate at least seventy five people at any given time for meals and also the spick and span tiled floored kitchen adjoining it in a building almost opposite the Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi. This kitchen and hall is maintained by one of Swami's students who had passed out from Swami's college at Puttaparthi and is now managing his own Company. In this building, devotees wishing to perform Narayana Seva could have the food cooked and served to the poor living in and around the villages at Puttaparthi. We were very fortunate to have had two opportunities to join in this seva with a few Sri Lankan devotees and an Indian family. The sponsors of the seva voluntarily committed themselves to serve the food cooked by the chefs personally.

On one occasion when we were performing the seva Swami's message indicated that He had come to partake as a small girl and was seated in the third row of a table in the hall. Indeed we observed a very small girl hungrily eating the meal.

The next story occurred on another occasion at the same place where we were performing the seva. Swami's message said that He had come to the hall as an old man and was seated on the stair case leading to the upper floor of the building. We went out of the pantry and saw an old person resembling Shirdi Sai Baba on the steps leading to the upper floor.

On several occasions, devotees have said that Swami had been present in their homes in different forms, as a beggar, an old man, and an animal or even as a bird. Devotees do not immediately realize that it is Bhagawan until He gives some indication. This time the old man called two members in our group to serve the food to him and each time he raised his hand to bless just the way Swami does. After his lunch he was leaving the hall and one of the members of our group followed the old man to ask him whether he was satisfied with the food. The old man turned around and asked the member in our group for one hundred rupees. This member was quite aghast for in his pocket at that time he had only a one hundred rupee note and no ordinary person could have seen the note in his trouser pocket. We had taken a photograph of the old man which showed rays coming out from his physical form.

Sathya Naarayana Pooja

Sathya Naarayana Pooja is a ritual for Lord Vishnu. Devotees would be aware that it was after consuming the Prasad kept at such a Pooja , His mother Easwaramma, Swami was born and He was named Sathya Naarayana.

As I said in my previous book "**Bhagawan and myself"** Swami had us involved in performing Sathya Naarayana Pooja every month. Though this ritual takes time as mantras and vedic chanting need to be repeated, yet for the love of Sai Ma, we performed the pooja with the few devotees attending it. On one occasion, we had prepared Prasad for twenty devotees whom we expected would be present at this pooja, Swami conveyed to us that there would be at least thirty devotees on that date. This information was received just prior to the commencement of the pooja but by then we had made all the Prasad sufficient only for twenty devotees. We were in an awkward situation as to how the Prasad could be distributed for thirty people. We prayed to Swami to help us out of this predicament which was going to be embarrassing. When the Pooja was over and the devotees were given the Prasad, we observed that everyone had sufficient quantity of food and there was absolutely no shortage of food. It dawned on us that in a similar situation Jesus Christ had multiplied food that was distributed to several people.

In a separate incident it is said that, in another devotee's house where Swami had been, a larger group of devotees than expected by the host had also accompanied Swami

to that house. The hostess feared that the food would not be enough for the number of devotees. Swami had read the mind of the host devotee and requested for two coconuts. He had then gone into the kitchen and dashed the two coconuts together sprinkling the coconut water over the Prasad. To the dismay of the hostess they found that the food had multiplied and they were able to share the Prasad with all the devotees without any shortfall.

The Robe

One of the devotees who does service at our centre wished to introduce a new devotee family to attend our bhajans. As it was the time that Swami had permitted new devotees to attend bhajans, we agreed to allow the family into the shrine room. After prayers one of the youths in the family told me that he wished to gift a robe worn by Swami which he had received from the Lord at the time he had attended a youth conference years ago at "Prasanthi Nilayam." I was more than overjoyed as we did not have a robe. I had seen the robe at the house of a devotee in Chennai which had also been gifted to one of the children in that house by Swami. I had at that time yearned that I should also have a robe in our shrine room to complete the picture.

This youth brought the robe next day for the Bhajan and it was placed on Swami's chair neatly folded. It may not be out of place to state that in Puttaparthi all Swamis' dresses, I was told, are made and gifted to Him by the devotees out of their love.

After a month or so this youth one day telephoned me to say that he was leaving for employment in a Middle Eastern Country and wished to have the robe back. He said he could collect it early in the morning next day on his way to the airport. Although I reluctantly agreed to his taking back the robe yet I was shattered at his request and wished that he would change his mind. It caused us immense pain of mind to part with the robe.

We prayed to Swami that should the robe be taken away, that Swami will give one of His used robes for our shrine room. The robe was removed by the devotee next day.

A few days later one morning we found a similar orange color robe on the carpet in the shrine room neatly folded complete with the gold buttons that go with it. The message was that as prayed for by us the robe had been one worn by Swami.

We were so ecstatic that this robe went back to take its place on Swami's chair. On another day Swami brought another robe of the same color which He said was the one worn by Him on a special occasion.

Swami knows what passes through the minds of His devotees and grants them that wish. This is a perfect example of Swami's Omniscience. We felt that we were not worthy of such an honour.

The Robe

EPISODES POST MAHA SAMADHI

The Miracle in the Temple

On the 16th of May 2012, Viji's (about whom we have previously read in this book and who attends our Bhajans) sister and nephew decided to pay homage at a very ancient sylvan Hindu temple nearly three hundred kilometers south of Colombo. The two visitors had arrived from Canada on a holiday and hence had made the quick decision to make the pilgrimage. On their invitation, we also accompanied them.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Skanda the youngest child of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and is located at a place called Kataragama.

This temple is also equally important as a place of worship for Buddhists as there is a Stupa built many centuries ago by a king at that time in history.

We arrived at this temple after a hectic and arduous journey of nearly eight hours. The timing of the evening pooja was at 6.30 p.m and we had hardly an hour to change dresses and proceed to the temple.

Unusually the temple was devoid of many devotees and we were happy that we could have a close darshan of the Deities. As we were moving into the temple premises it was getting dark and from the few lamps around we could see the temple area.

Just then we heard a voice behind us saying "Sai Ram". These words are only chanted by Sai devotees. The

words were repeated on three or four occasions in rapid succession and as we turned in the directions from which we heard the voice, we saw a middle aged lady wearing an immaculate white long dress. She was smiling at us and was pointing to another lady with very short hair, clad in orange clothes, who we identified as a Buddhist Nun. It was now her turn to say something and we heard the Nun ask us whether we had been to India and to Puttaparthi during the Maha Samadhi of Swami. It was a bolt from the blues for us. One of the members of our group replied her in the negative and then the lady in orange said that she had seen us during that time in Puttaparthi and on several previous occasions as well. None of us had been in Puttaparthi during the Maha Samadhi time. Although this was a general conversation but coming from a Buddhist nun quite unknown to us and in a faraway remote area, sent chills down our spine. We stood aghast but had an urge to extend the conversation to ask the lady more questions. Before we could come back to our senses the two ladies walked slowly toward the temple and melted away, out of sight under the shadow of a Bo tree into the darkness behind the temple.

Fortunately one of the members in our group had the presence of mind to click his mobile phone camera and it showed a misty photo of the ladies. Viji then said that it must have been Swami's play and we agreed in unison that it was definitely so. Viji then had a message on her mobile phone stating that it was Swami who had come as the lady in the orange costume.

Prior to our leaving home on the pilgrimage that morning we had a message on the board in the shrine room which read “I am also coming”. Linking the two messages we are more than convinced that this episode was Swami’s play. This was an astonishing encounter and occurred after Swami attained Maha Samadhi.

The Weeping Picture

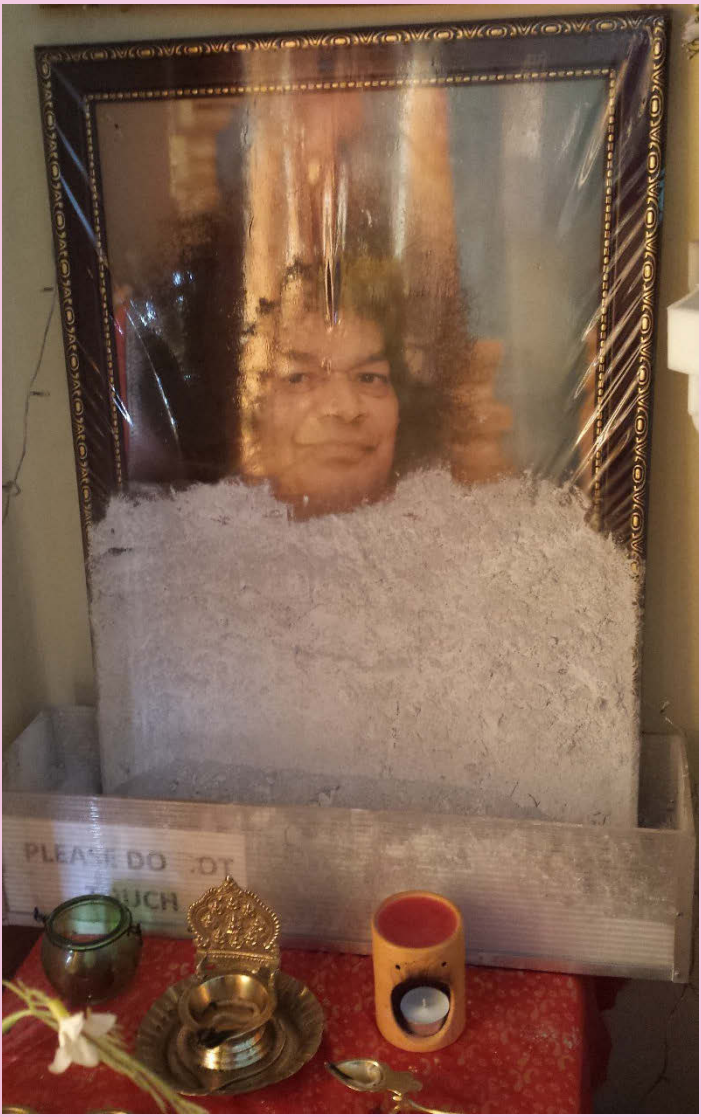
A day or two prior to Swami leaving His physical body and while He was in the ICU of the Super Speciality Hospital in April 2011 leaving His devotees in grief and in a sea of tears, a rare photograph of Him was found rolled up in the shrine room. This picture was framed by us. The photograph was kept leaning against the wall on a table with a table cloth underneath. On the morning of Swami attaining Maha Samadhi and even before the shattering news reached us we observed that there was a wet patch on the table cloth under the photograph. On a closer examination of the picture we noted that the dampness seemed to have been caused by tear drops flowing from Swami's eyes in the photograph. We were disturbed and prompted by our inner voice asked Swami the reason for the tears and waited in silence for His answer. A short while later He had a message to state that there were so many needles inserted into His body lying on the hospital bed. Overcome by intense emotion, we prayed fervently to God that He becomes well once again.

Sacred poojas and homams were arranged by us with groups of devotees attending at our centre. We had the Mrityunjaya Homam, Gayatri Homam and the Dhanvantari Homam. All these three Homams and Yagnas were conducted by priests from the temples. Chanting of the Vedas made the atmosphere in the hall celestial. There was dedication and devotion among the devotees during these yagnas. I recall the priest saying that while the Homam was on and the tongues of fire

leaped high to consume the material that was being offered to it, he had a vision of Swami standing at the door way and signaling the priest to perform Paada Pooja. What can prayers do if the Lord Himself had decided His future. It was not our will but “Thy will was done”.

I was skeptical about this story until another devout devotee, an old lady, mentioned to me independently a few days after the Homam that she had seen Swami standing at the doorway for a few minutes and then disappear.

Returning to the story of the weeping picture, after Swami attained Maha Samadhi, Vibhooti began cascading from Swami’s chest. The holy ash was increasing in quantity daily (see picture on next page). One of the devotees made a tray and the Vibhooti is collecting in it now.



Weeping Picture

The Icon of Swami

I will now reveal to you the episode of the arrival of an Icon of the Lord in our house. This episode is prior to the arrival of the marble statue.

A month or so after Swami attained Maha Samadhi, most devotees wished to have Swami's icon installed at our centre. This was a very difficult task. I asked a sculptor who is also a devotee of Swami whether he could help me to fulfill the task of obtaining an icon. He told me that he would revert on my request after speaking to some sculptors residing very far away from our home.

When Swami's message indicated that He needed a statue at this centre, it was our duty to comply. Devotees who had been to Puttaparthi indicated that there was no statue of Swami in the Sai Kulwant hall. Yet, I got the impression that we needed to have His statue here.

I also asked Renganathan who resides in Bombay, to make inquiries about a statue of Swami. He mentioned to me that sculptors in Bombay had not yet started making statues of Swami. In desperation I made inquiries from devotees known to me from Puttaparthi and they too had the same negative answer. These failures dampened my enthusiasm.

Swami knew of all the attempts I had made, for there is nothing that He does not know. Meanwhile I stopped

looking for a statue of Swami and it remained at the back of my mind.

A few days thereafter a strange message appeared which indicated that Swami was coming soon. I could not understand the context of the message and was not aware of the drama that was unfolding elsewhere, without my knowledge.

Renganathan arrived on his usual business trip from Bombay, much to our shock with a statue of Swami. I felt quite over whelmed when he told us that of many people that he had spoken with on my request, one happened to be his mother-in-law in Chennai. She had purchased a statue about two feet in height after she had searched most parts of Chennai. Incidentally she told Renganathan that it happened to be the last statue on the shelf in that Handicrafts shop. She had bought the statue but did not know how to get it across to Renganathan. He was leaving Bombay for Sri Lanka on the very next day of her purchasing the statue. As Rama (Renganathan's wife) was not well, Renganathan phoned his mother-in-law asking her to come and stay with Rama.

This compelled the mother-in-law to fly to Bombay from Chennai that same day with the statue instead of her taking a train which had been her usual mode of travel in the past.

In Bombay, Renganathan then repacked the paper pulp statue as soon as his mother-in-law arrived and carried it to Bombay Airport.

At the Airport, he was informed that the statue would be confiscated by the Airport authorities unless it was put in the hold of the aircraft. Renganathan was perturbed. He told us later that all the trouble he had taken would be in vain. Renganathan began to chant the Gayatri Mantra praying that Swami would take care of any difficulty that he will encounter at the Airport. Sure enough, when he went up to the Customs counter at the Airport, Renganathan decided to admit to the officers that he was carrying as cabin baggage a statue of Swami for a center in Sri Lanka. As the statue was made of paper pulp it was liable to be damaged if loaded with the other baggage. No questions were asked of him and he was able to board the Aircraft without any difficulty.

When the Lord wills there is nothing that can stand in His way. Swami told us later that the statue is one of Himself as Bala Sai and we should conduct a bhajan on the next day for the inauguration of the statue.

Swami's Personal Room

In November 2011, months after Swami attained Maha Samadhi there appeared a note on the board in the shrine room. The note read that He is now living mostly in the houses of devotees. He asked us in the same note whether He could bring some of His personal belongings to our home. Initially we were scared but realized that this was an opportunity which any devotee would not wish to miss and our immediate response was to quickly agree and thank Swami for His grace. After all who would want to say "No" to the most beloved Lord. Already we had made the front room as the shrine room for Swami where Bhajans are conducted.

Swami is said to have occupied a small room with insignificant items of furniture, and that at the supplication of His devotees had moved into the newly constructed 'Yajur Mandir'.

A few days later there mysteriously appeared a new medium sized turquoise coloured rubber bathroom slippers in one of the rooms at our home. This we inferred was one of Swami's personal belongings. In the following days, the floor of the unused bath adjoining the shrine room continued to be wet under the shower. Mystery deepened. No! Swami explained that He has had a bath. Then more of His personal items began to appear in the room as time passed by.

Another pair of leather chappals, a blue towel, silver and brass oil lamps, wall clock and a foot stool together with

toiletry box with its requirements, stationary, linen bag, two clocks and a host of other items were found in the room. Great care was taken by us in vigilantly looking after these items. (See picture on next page)

The room in which these items were found is the largest of the rooms in the house and had been stacked with decorative material used for Swami's functions at this centre.

To return to the main story, a few days prior to Swami's birthday in 2011, He said that He wanted the room where His personal belongings were, to be colour washed and used as His personal room exclusively. We were bewildered by Swami's sudden and unexpected direction.

Swami wanted no other room which I offered. As days were getting closer to His birthday I became agitated and restless. I could not locate a painter and a helper to tidy the room which also contained boxes and dismantled furniture. The workers were all in houses and offices painting and polishing for Christmas and New Year and would not come as those errands were more lucrative than painting just one room in a home. Sister Vidya a devotee was having her home repaired at this point in time and learning of my predicament asked her contractor to arrange a painter from his team of workmen. At last just two days before the end of time given to me, a painter completed the room by working late. While I was attempting to find a helper to polish the floor another devotee unexpectedly brought his

watchman to polish. When the room was finally done, Sisters Yamuna and Padma hung up the curtains and helped to arrange the room with the personal items Swami had brought into our home. Swami's ways are inscrutable. This was the first test by Swami.

Swami's play did not end there for it was at this time a Sri Lankan devotee residing in Puttaparthi visited us and gave us two large bust sized photographs of Swami which we needed to laminate (see third picture on the front cover page). In order to laminate them it became necessary to move away from the city to the only place that had a machine of the size of the picture. This was the second test by Swami.

The third test was when we wished to have the two photographs framed to keep the time frame given to us by Swami. The framing people quoted an exorbitant sum and wanted at least a week to complete the work. This again sent me into a panic situation as I hardly had two days more before the 23rd of November.

Vidya whose name you have encountered earlier in this book came to our rescue once again. Through inquires she came across a person to frame the picture and it surprised me when I learnt that charges for the beautiful gold painted wooden frame for both photographs was one sixth of the price quoted by the professional framing people. Further the framing was completed in two days and the pictures were put up on the wall on the night prior to Swami's birthday.

Swami's Personal Room
The footwear, linen bag are visible

On the morning of the 23rd of November, the room was ready for devotees to have darshan. The programme started with the recitation of the Vedas followed by bhajans. After the bhajans, the devotees were quietly entering the room one by one. Lo and behold! I saw a six foot tall florescent electric lamp which had not been there earlier in the room. Swami said that He had got that lamp also for this centre. Everybody who entered the room was enthralled by the sight of these personal items and stunned at the grandeur of His powers.

This room is opened for darshan for the devotees on the 24th of every month, being the date Swami attained Maha Samadhi.

Swami the benevolent Lord had made it possible to accomplish an onerous and strenuous task which I was disinclined and hesitant to undertake. In the end He helped me to accomplish His edict in that short frame in time. Swami's tests are severe.

New Year Cards

It is usual for some devotees to be present at our centre closer to midnight on the 31st of December each year to celebrate the dawn of the New Year with a prayer recital and bhajan. About ten devotees who reside close by attend the bhajan on New Year's Eve. The other devotees do not come due to personal reasons such as transport difficulties. Each year from 2011 and in the years following, just before mid night of the 31st of December, large New Year cards, the size of which no body would have seen are left on the carpet in the shrine room, wishing all devotees a very Happy New Year with handwritten messages. There is always a little holy ash inside the card for distribution among the devotees. These cards have been preserved with the envelope for doubting Thomas's to see for themselves. Nevertheless, in the minds of some of the devotees an atom of doubt does exist. On the other hand, I asked myself whether they could be still in doubt after they had experienced many of the incredible miracles by Swami. To some other older devotees nothing Swami did ever surprised them anymore.

The Chair

When Swami began materializing holy ash in the year 2000, we were taken aback by the occurrences unfolding before our eyes at that time. Swami directed that a chair and a foot stool to be kept in the shrine room for Him. He indicated that the chair need not be an expensive one. In the furniture shops, there were chairs befitting the description of the chair Swami had desired but as Swami had wanted an inexpensive chair, a plastic chair seemed to be the best choice. This chair we purchased was draped periodically with silk cloth and a small umbrella of different coloured material spread out over the chair. The shrine room looked very colourful with the chair and the umbrella. The practice of draping the chair on occasions was time consuming and laborious, nevertheless it continued for several years.

In May 2011 Swami one day directed that a proper chair be provided for Him. By this we inferred that Swami required a chair similar to the one on which He sits at Sai Kulwant Hall and at other bhajan halls and at most other centers in the world. Although I was aware of the design of the chair yet I had no idea of the dimensions. Therefore, I had to take measurements of a normal chair to develop a design of the chair on which Swami usually sits. The sketch of the chair which I had made remained on my table for some months and then due to other pre-occupations, this work of Swami's chair had gone into the back of my mind.

One day close to Guru Poornima celebrations in that year, an abrupt thought passed through my mind about the chair, for it was the date given to me by Swami to have the chair ready for Him. I began to frantically search for a carpenter who would finally make a chair in a short period of time. The few carpenters whom I had spoken with either refused to complete the job within the days specified or expressed their inability to carve out the emblem on the chair. I became more jittery.

It was at this time that a young devotee of Swami mentioned to me that he had obtained the services of a carpenter in a village close to where he resided, to make a similar chair for his home. The boy's father I spoke with, later informed me that the transport charges of the chair to our centre from his village, would not only be exorbitant but also required a permit from the Police as the carpenter's village was in the midst of the area where the government security forces were fighting the rebels. I was back again on the horns of a dilemma and was wondering what I should do. Swami in His grace, extended the time frame to 23rd of November 2011.

I strongly believe that Swami knew that even by the 23rd of November it would not have been possible to have the chair ready for Him. In August 2011 one of Swami's devotees and a very good and renowned bhajan singer Ravi Raj Nasery of Mumbai was sponsored by the Mandir in Colombo to sing bhajan numbers at Sai Centers in Sri Lanka. Devotees at our center requested me to have Ravi Raj also sing at our center. The Mandir warned me that the date of his performance at our center

should be kept discreet for otherwise our small center would not be able to accommodate the huge crowd of devotees like that which thronged the Mandir during an earlier performance there. Unfortunately word had got around in the Mandir of the performance of Ravi Raj at our home. All hell broke loose when I was informed of the situation. I spoke with one of the organizers at the Mandir with a view to cancelling the programme at our home. He was averse to the cancellation and assured me that timely action will be taken by him to minimize the rush of devotees into our home.

During the program at our home when everybody was captivated with the singing a strange occurrence took place in the lower apartment of our home quite unknown to all of us.

The last to leave our home after the performance were two sevadal ladies. The young boy living in the lower apartment called these two ladies to tell them that somebody had delivered Swami's chair, a foot stool and 5"x 3" glass framed picture of Swami.

When we heard their excited talk we thought that some unfortunate incident had occurred and went down quickly to the ground floor. What we saw in the hall of the ground floor apartment flabbergasted us. There was a black ebony chair identical to the one used by Swami at bhajan centres complete with red velvet cushioning, a cushioned foot stool in similar material and a large glass framed picture of Swami.

On inquiries made from the boy, he told us that a middle aged and frail looking person driving an auto rickshaw delivered the chair and the picture. He also told us that the chair was unloaded from the canvas hood of the auto rickshaw with the large picture solely by the driver with no one helping him!

When he told us the name of the auto rickshaw driver it rang a bell in my mind that he was a devotee of Swami. We had infact travelled in his auto rickshaw on an occasion or two in the past.

We attempted to lift the chair to take it into the shrine room on the upper floor. The chair was very heavy and so was the picture of Swami. It needed two able bodied men to bring the chair to the upper floor. Many questions passed through my mind. How could a middle aged frail looking auto rickshaw driver unload the chair so heavy from the canvas hood of an auto rickshaw single handed? How could the canvas hood of the auto rickshaw have borne a heavy chair? How could the 5' height glass framed heavy picture be accommodated in the auto rickshaw? These questions baffled me more so as the auto rickshaw driver had told the boy living in the ground floor apartment that the chair was given to us because we had no proper chair for Swami. How then could the auto rickshaw driver have known of our immediate requirement for a chair. I had the telephone number of this auto rickshaw driver and I phoned him. I heard him laugh at the other end of the line when I asked him the name of the donor of the chair and the picture. He continued to say that I need not be bothered about the

donors name and even refused payment which I offered for the transport of the chair. (see picture on the next page)

Today, the chair is in the shrine room. I strongly believe that Swami had known that it was not possible for me to have the chair made before His birthday and decided to gift us this chair. I have no doubt and know for certain that this was one of the leelas of Swami, the amiable and most merciful Avatar.

The Chair

The Birthday in 2011 and New Year Decorations

As was usual, Swami's birthday celebrations were to be held on 23rd November 2011. Nonetheless that year, we decided that the birthday should be celebrated on a very low key as it is the first birthday after Swami attained Maha Samadhi. The arrangements were that hand written invitations were to be sent out to only a few devotees and the function be held as a private one. We even decided that the birthday cake should be smaller and not elaborately decorated.

Swami is a silent listener and having heard our discussions had a message for us. He said that **He has not gone** and directed us to have the usual celebrations that we have had in the past with many devotees attending.

This gave us tremendous encouragement to work towards a grand celebration with lavish floral decorations even though in our minds we were not happy to do so. On the other hand, we were in a state of uncertainty as to how it would be possible to hold a grand celebration with just three days left for His birthday on the 23rd of November. This was a massive uphill task as besides other details a larger cake had to be made and decorated in that short period of time.

As for the invitations for devotees to attend the birthday celebrations, hand written cards had been already handed over to a few devotees whom we had decided to invite prior to Swami's directions.

Swami was not satisfied as we had left out the names of many of the devotees and had decided to have a low key celebration. Next morning expensive and a beautiful pack of pink coloured invitation cards printed in India was on the table. Who could have brought these cards is anybody's guess. We now needed to dispatch the cards to all devotees and also provide space by moving the furniture in our house to accommodate a larger crowd. As time was of essence, we resolved to phone most of the devotees who had not been invited and when they came on 23rd November for birthday celebrations they would be given the invitation cards to also to attend Swami's second birthday celebrations on the 27th November. Printed cards continued to be given to us for the centre's anniversary in April and Swami's Birthday in November every year thereafter.

The holding of the second and third birthday celebrations within a week following the official birthday on the 23rd of November came into practice when some of the devotees requested that we do so, as birthday celebrations in Puttaparthi too last for a week.

There was hectic activity for making the cake for 23rd November. Three lady devotees spent hours to bake and decorate the cake. Nevertheless it was accomplished amidst all difficulties by the grace of Swami.

Swami directed that our shrine room be decorated with purple color material. We had very little decorative

material of this color and what we had, had been used in the previous years.

Some devotees volunteered to make the curtains and the Divan cover with purple color material to be purchased by them. This I thought was a costly exercise and further time was also running short.

Swami in His mercy brought to our home very fine Hyderabad silk curtains all readymade to the exact measurements of the doors and the windows and the Divan. In fact each window and door curtain had cloth tags affixed to them indicating the exact measurement of the doors and windows. For the Divan, a purple silk quilt fitting its size was given to us. I lamented that we will face a storage problem for these items after the event and being expensive material we needed to preserve them carefully to be used for later occasions.

After pleading with Swami within my mind I thought Swami had understood my problem and this was going to be the last time Swami will bring such material but I was quite disappointed. In April 2012 for the New Year Swami wanted the curtains and other materials to be of pink colour. Within a few days, before we could discuss with other devotees, who were volunteering to either get them made or loan some from their homes, Swami brought fitting and readymade curtains for the doors and windows and another pink color embossed Divan cover. I asked Swami in my mind why He needed to change the colors of the doors and the window curtains, when the purple curtain He gave us earlier was still fresh looking.

Swami's answer was that pink was His favorite color. A few days later I was casually turning through the pages in a magazine written by a research scientist. The article disclosed the reason for Swami wanting the curtains in pink, as color pink denotes peace and Love.

At this time a devotee of Swami from USA, Yamuna, was very keen to attend our centre bhajans and the birthday celebrations on the 27th of November before she went back to the USA that night. Prior to coming to Sri Lanka this ardent devotee had been in Puttaparthi for Swami's Maha Samadhi darshan.

On the afternoon of the 26th November, Yamuna arrived at our house without informing us. She had obtained our address from one of our close friends who visited our centre regularly. This devotee had told Yamuna that she would not be permitted to enter the shrine room at our centre during off-bhajan hours. Yamuna had defied this request and had come searching for our house. I heard somebody shouting out my name on the road near our house and on looking out of the window I saw a lady asking for me, so I invited her in.

By that time Swami had already a message asking me to admit her into the shrine room and also into His personal room.

Once Yamuna entered our home she introduced herself as a self-employed person in Los Angeles in the United

States looking after thirteen Preschool children and that she was very happy with the job. She also said that she attended bhajans at one of the Centers in Los Angeles in the U.S.

I formally invited her to attend the bhajan on the 27th November not knowing that she was booked to fly back to U.S on the 27th November night. I was surprised when she readily agreed to pick up her baggage from the hotel and attend the bhajan at 6.00 p.m. and leave for the airport after the bhajan as her flight was at midnight.

It appeared to us from her conversation that she wanted to make a cake for Swami for His birthday whilst she was at Puttaparthi and felt miserable that she was unable to do so for some reason or other. When she went into Swami's personal room at our home the message on Swami's note pad said that she may bring a cake for the bhajan on the 27th November at our centre. She was so delighted and thrilled that she went down on her knees to worship and thank Swami for granting her wish.

She gave clear instructions immediately for a cake to be made by the Hotel where she was staying. She ordered that the cake should be made and decorated with eighty six rose flowers representing Swami's age. The chef did not know how to accomplish the task of decorating the cake in so short a time as twenty four hours. It was at this time that Swami told us that fourteen roses on the cake would suffice.

Yamuna had left the hotel to attend the bhajan at our home and at the end of the bhajan instead of wishing every one good bye, we noticed her to be in a pensive mood.

On asking her the reason, she said that when she attempted to obtain Swami's blessings to leave, Swami was telling her in her mind not to travel to the U.S but "Wait". Indefinite wait indeed. She bemoaned that her students back in USA would leave her fold. She would also face penalties for non-payment of her house mortgage and other utility bills. She made up her mind that obeying Swami's word was her first priority as it would be in her own interest.

On the night of the 27th November the television news channel carried a news item that due to a hurricane the airport at Los Angeles, her home town, had become in operational. Further her friends in the USA had also requested her to delay her departure from Sri Lanka till conditions returned to normal and surprisingly when she told them of her payment of dues in USA they had volunteered to take care of her personal obligations. Yamuna left for the USA only on the 26th of January 2012 as Swami kept on requesting her to attend the several bhajans in the interim period at this centre.

Vegetables and Cake Ingredients

Before Christmas celebrations each year it is usual for the lady devotees to spend days on making the Christmas cake. In the year 2011, everybody being busy forgot to do so until just a week or so before Christmas. Some of them said that since making the cake needed plenty of ingredients and was time consuming we should avoid doing it in the circumstances. However Swami did not seem satisfied with the opinion. In my mind He was telling me that He wanted the cake made. I was tied up with the arrangements for the bhajan. On that account, I had no time to go from shop to shop for buying ingredients. When Swami wills, there is nothing that can stand in His way.

Next morning before going out to the shops with the long list of ingredients in hand, I went in to the shrine room to pray. I was bewildered when I found in the shrine room a large brown paper bag which appeared to be half full and heavy. On opening it, what we saw startled us, for all the necessary cake ingredients in the correct quantities were found in that bag. Swami in His tender heartedness had materialized these ingredients. Now it was for the lady devotees to make and bake the cake, wrap them and put them away stored in boxes and this they fulfilled working right through the day.

On another occasion there was a scarcity of vegetables in the city due to transport difficulties encountered by the farmers from distant parts of the country. With all other work, I forgot to buy vegetables from the market.

Swami's message said that vegetable plots at Puttaparthi were not being taken care of, after He left His physical body and whatever that was available He would bring to our home. I told Swami in my mind that I would obtain vegetables locally and did not wish that He should bring the vegetables from Puttaparthi. Swami in His gentleness brought a large bag of vegetables which we found in one of the rooms in the house.

It was Navaratri time in November 2012 and we were brimming with excitement when we saw the mysterious appearance of a bag of flaked rice during the Navaratri festival. Swami said that the flaked rice was to be used for preparing Prasadam for His devotees attending the bhajan at our centre. Swami also mentioned that the flaked rice was made from the rice grown in fields at Puttaparthi. Swami's benevolence and love knows no bounds.

That Courier Man Again

After Swami left His physical form, our first pilgrimage to Puttaparthi was at the end of January 2012. Some of us in our group were emotionally upset and I thought they would break down sobbing on seeing the Samadhi of our Lord. It was just twelve months prior in February 2011 that Swami had given us darshan while being seated in His wheel chair. When we left Puttaparthi in 2011, we did not realize that it would be our last darshan of our Beloved Swami in His physical form.

We controlled our emotions while entering Sai Kulwant hall. Devotees were there in numbers. Some meditating, some praying in silence rolling the Rudraksha Mala between their fingers.

After bhajan, devotees are permitted to file past the Samadhi reciting Sai Gayatri and place bouquets and flowers on the marble tomb. This is followed by the darshan of Swami's first bhajan mandir adjoining the interview room.

There are number of large pictures of Swami put up on the walls in the hall. The one single picture that caught my eye was a life size photograph of Swami with a smile on His face and His divine feet clearly visible. Each time I went past that picture after darshan, I stood at the bottom of the picture admiring and praying to Swami. Thoughts that passed through my mind at such times were why Swami had left His physical body leaving His devotees in tears. My human mind overshadowed the

fact that it was only the body of Swami that had gone and not His soul.

We had returned to Sri Lanka carrying memories of Puttaparthi which still remains a Peaceful Abode. Two days after we had returned, one morning there was a card board roll similar to the roll in which Swami's pictures are sold in the bookshop. The roll was addressed to me and on removing the tin cap at the end of the roll and unrolling it, we were bewildered to see that it was the very picture of Swami which I had been admiring and praying to in Sai Kulwant hall. I was happy that Swami had heard my prayer (see picture on next page).

Devotees who attend our bhajans are simply delighted and spend time admiring and meditating before this picture. It is not out of place to mention that in Puttaparthi in the room at the ashram which we had occupied in February that year had a pocket size photograph of this very same picture of Swami pasted on the wall. Swami's message then was that He would come in that form to our home. At that time I dismissed this message but then I was apprehensive that should Swami give us that large picture where was I going to place it in our shrine room at home as I had no space on the wall.

The question was rolling in my mind and then I visualized that the only place for it would be in the living room leaning against the large French window as it would fit the window in size. When the picture did arrive after it was framed, Swami's message confirmed my thought that it could be placed against the window in the

Smiling Face of Swami with Visible Divine Feet

living room. This again shows the omniscience of Swami even after He had attained Maha Samadhi. From time to time devotees brought garlands of fresh flowers to drape this picture and each of the garlands elongated manifold and spread on the floor.

A few days later, another courier document was received addressed to me. The sender's name on this occasion again was Sathyanarayana Raju and His address as "Prasanthi Nilayam Puttaparthi." This small parcel contained a picture of Devi and another of Swami. I became skeptical on receiving photographs from Swami from time to time. I loudly announced to my family that somebody at Puttaparthi may be sending these pictures.

Later in the afternoon I had a message that it was Swami Himself who was repeatedly sending these pictures and this was to convince me that nobody else was doing so.

The Bukkapatnam Seva of 2012

Most Sai devotees know that Bukkapatnam is a village adjoining Puttaparthi where in an elementary school Swami had His education.

Memories come back to me of the detailed description given by a contemporary author of His time as to how Swami had to walk long distances to attend the school in those days when there was no transport facility except the bullock cart.

In Bukkapatnam, Swami wanted our group of devotees to do service to the poor in February 2012. He directed that the seva should be done in the interior villages of this little town of Bukkapatnam. The interior of these villages were reachable only along a cart track and Bukkapatnam itself is a few kilometers away from Puttaparthi by road.

We had arranged to provide each hut in a particular village with dry rations going personally to handover the parcels. The shopping complex at “Prasanthi Nilayam” was able to package and sell us these dry rations and a mini bus was hired to undertake the journey.

Swami has warned devotees not to talk too much and advertise the services that one does, as seva has to be done as a selfless service with no intention of acquiring benefits or fame. Swami says that service should be done to the Daridra Narayana people for they are the destitute and the homeless, physically and mentally handicapped

and the aged and not to the Lakshmi Narayanas for the latter are the affluent people. This perhaps may be the reason for Him asking us to go to the village.

The vehicle we travelled in passed through mango groves, patches of garden land growing pea nuts and marigold flowers. Cultivation appeared to be the only means of existence for the poorest of this poor village folk. Much of the land we passed through was dusty, with boulders strewn here and there.

At one point the bus could not proceed any further as the track was in a very dilapidated condition. We had to hence walk the distance to the little huts of the village folk.

The humbleness of the villagers spoke much of their ways of living. They accosted us to a temple nearby which we understood was built for them by Swami. These villagers were also fortunate in that they had been provided with pipe borne drinking water by Swami. To converse with them, language was a barrier as they knew no English and we knew no Telugu.

The Photograph which came by Post

In February 2012 one mid-morning, there was a roll affixed with sheets of Indian postage stamps to the value of Rs. 640/- addressed to my full name and delivered by the postman. The senders name was clearly written as Sathya Narayana Raju, Prasanthi Nilayam Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

This occurred many months after Swami attained Maha Samadhi. The receipt of the photographs from Puttaparthi and other miracles occurring by His grace were not a matter of surprise to us. Although at the beginning when miracles began to occur after He left his physical body caused us concern as to how these miracles could occur when Swami is no more in the physical form.

Reverting to the story of the roll I received in the post, on opening it, I found four large and beautiful photographs of Swami all matt finished and laminated.

I asked Swami within me where I needed to put up these photographs for we had absolutely no place to do so. I said that the walls were full of His photographs and still I continue to receive His pictures. On the other hand I had no mind to part with these very valuable photographs to other devotees as these have been sent to me by Swami. The answer to this was terse. He told me that on the last occasion He sent pictures to me I had said the same thing. It seemed to me that Swami was saying that the more I expressed dissatisfaction, the more

pictures He would send me. Though, mailing these pictures to a devotee of little importance has indeed humbled me, Swami was perhaps letting me know that there is no place that I can look at except at His pictures on the walls of this house.

Puttaparthi after Swami attained Maha Samadhi

A question frequently asked by devotees who had not travelled to "Prasanthi Nilayam" after 24th April 2011 is what does Puttaparthi look like now? I too had asked the same question from devotees who had been to Puttaparthi prior to our pilgrimage in the year 2012. There were mixed reactions to this question and I was saddened to hear a few negative answers from a handful of devotees.

After arriving at "Prasanthi Nilayam" in February 2012 my own opinion and that of several others was that the Divine Abode of our Beloved Lord had not changed and whatever changes that had taken place in the ashram by way of the number of devotees was due to the period we were there being a no festival time.

I observed that the ashram had a good number of western families including children. There were many Chinese devotees who had arrived for their New Year celebrations. They were going to perform a cultural programme also as in the previous years. Usually the Sai Kulwant hall is full during the weekends. Swami's absence in the physical form is very much a matter of concern for His devotees. Nevertheless they console themselves with the fact that it is a reality and that Swami is still amongst us, guiding and guarding us and showing His presence through miracles, which His devotees experienced prior to His Maha Samadhi.

The shops outside the Ashram are continuing with their business. Many devotees still carry on to purchase apartments and new restaurants have come up outside. When we were leaving for Srilanka, devotees from all parts of the world were trickling into the Ashram for Shivaratri celebrations. This was to avoid disappointment in seeking accommodation on the eve of the festival. As devotees enter through the Ganesh gate they seem to experience the atmosphere of peace as we did.

In “Prasanthi Nilayam” though Swami is not physically present, He has never let His devotees down. As much as we are, most devotees are now of the view that Swami is living amongst us. In Sai Kulwant hall, the daily routine goes on as before. The Omkara, Suprabhatam and Nagarsankirtanam are conducted in the early hours of the mornings. The chanting of the Vedas followed by Bhajans before His Samadhi take place both in the mornings and evenings. The Sai Gayatri mantra fills the air as devotees quietly file past the Samadhi in serene silence placing garlands, bouquets and flower offerings with their heart felt prayers of gratitude to the Lord.

Devotees at the end of their stay return to their countries contented and hoping to return just as I had changed my views about making any further pilgrimages to this holy abode prior to February 2012. Which devotee wishes to forget a Sadguru who had transformed the lives of millions of His devotees?

Muddenahalli

Muddenahalli is located at the foot of the Nandi hills in Karnataka state. Much is being said about Muddenahalli as of Puttaparthi, as another place where Swami would have also resided in His physical form.

This place is also known as Sai Grama and was previously a very backward, rocky, arid area. The poor people's children had hardly any education. It was a few bachelor teachers who had taken the first step in providing primary school education to these village children.

When Swami decided to take the school under His wing, primary and secondary schools and colleges came up in no time under His guidance. At present thousands of children receive education in all subjects including Educare. Some of these children are boarders. The place is today brimming with school children, buildings and play grounds.

A group of eight of us from Sri Lanka visited this Abode of Swami. We detoured on our way to Bangalore from Puttaparthi where we had been staying for two weeks in January – February 2012. Muddenahalli is situated about 3 miles from Chikaballapur which is a town half way between Puttaparthi and Bangalore.

One of the Doctors at the General Hospital in Puttaparthi had given us an introductory letter to the Secretary of the Muddenahalli Ashram. When we arrived at the campus,

the Administration Officer and the volunteers invited us into the living room of the Secretary. While we were awaiting the arrival of the secretary, we were admiring a particular photograph of Swami on the wall of the room.

This particular photograph was one of the best photographs of Swami. The photograph was of Swami in His recent years with a smiling face. None of us had seen this rare photograph earlier, not even at any of the Puttaparthi bookshops. Those of us who had cameras in our group began clicking with the prior permission of the officer in charge. Sadly none of these photographs taken came out clearly the way we wanted it, as the original picture was at a height on the wall.

Many months later having known of our desire, the omniscient Lord materialized forty postcard sized copies of that very same photograph we had yearned for at Muddenahalli. The Lord had left them on the writing table in His personal room at our home for distribution to all devotees attending the bhajan. Joy knew no bounds and this is an example of how Swami is aware of even the smallest desire of His devotees and fulfills them even after He had attained Maha Samadhi.

The Secretary took us around the campus, the ashram, and the auditorium where Bhajans are held on Thursdays and attended by the staff and school children. We were astounded by a life size photograph of Swami seated on a chair. Wherever we stood, Swami in that photograph appeared to be looking at us.

Our group was then driven up a spiral roadway to the top of a hillock in a vehicle. From the top of this hillock, one has a magnificent view of the low lying areas below. The area below looked beautiful with boulders and patches of emerald green plantations interspersed with coconut palms and mango trees amidst which stood little thatched huts. The area around the school and colleges looked much greener with plantations and flower plants, which were cared for by the staff and the students of the institution.

There is a two storied building on top of the hillock which was nearing completion at the time of our visit and we learnt that it was meant to be Swami's residence whenever He visited Muddenahalli. This Mandir has been named "Prema Deep". As one enters the building a large picture of Swami and His chair in the hall greets the devotees. The air inside is cool and fragrant with the perfumed scent of incense sticks. A flame from a brass lamp shines at the foot of Swami's picture. Everybody remained seated on the cold marble floor in pin drop silence listening to the narration of some of Swami's Leelas by one of the administration officers. He concluded by saying that Swami had instructed that any devotee coming to His Mandir should be given a tumbler of crystal clear cold water kept at the entrance to the building as Prasad and also be served with Vibhooti. His talk to us was very absorbing however I refrain from disclosing the numerous miracles of Swami in Muddenahalli as disclosed by him, without the prior permission from the authorities.

With tear-filled eyes and minds full of memories, we left Muddenahalli in a rush to reach Bangalore to board the train to Chennai. Muddenahalli is a place where devotees would need more time going around the villages performing seva.

The Paaduga Pooja

From the time we received the Paadugas in 2002, we have been conducting Paaduga Pooja every month in the years there after, in the presence of some of the devotees at our home.

In February 2012, just as in the previous years, we had taken with us the Paadugas from our shrine room to "Prasanthi Nilayam" Ashram. After some days Swami wanted us to perform a Paaduga Pooja followed by a bhajan in our room at the ashram inviting the Sri Lankan devotees who had travelled with us and the few doctors from the hospitals in Puttaparthi who were known to us.

We had gone outside the ashram to purchase some flowers and garlands for the occasion to be used for reciting the 108 names of the Lord. Sister Padma about whom I have referred to in this book, wished to have a cake kept as prasad.

We had not brought with us a suitable vessel to place the flowers and were speculating whether the flowers could be used directly from the little bag that contained them. In a few minutes while we were arranging the room, to our amazement we found a beautiful stainless steel container with a message from Swami that it was a gift to us and that it was one of the containers used by Him. This was a beautiful container complete with carvings and a handle. This is another instance of Swami's omnipotence even after He had left His physical form.

I had mentioned to one of the Doctors a few days before the paaduga pooja that I liked a very particular large smiling picture of Swami, which was placed against the wall in the Endoscopy room at the Super Speciality Hospital. To my bewilderment, we also discovered a smaller version of that picture on the writing table in the Ashram room just prior to commencing the paaduga pooja. From this picture amrith began to flow and it was distributed to all devotees after the bhajan. I have in a previous episode mentioned about a slightly larger version of this very same picture which I had purchased and had it framed at Trichinapalli. (See first picture on the front cover)

On the day previous to the Paaduga pooja, Swami materialized a small statue of Lord Ganesh and had a message in Vibhooti on the marble topped table in our ashram room. The message read, “Ganesha for Dharam”. Dr. Dharam is an ardent devotee of Swami and could not have expected a more valuable gift from the Lord.

Maha Shivaratri 2012 and 2014

On the 20th of February 2012, Swami directed that the Maha Shivaratri bhajan should be celebrated in a grand manner. This He said should be preceded by a Linga Abishekam for the Spathikalinga He had gifted us some time ago.

This message also stated that Swami on His visit to various Sai homes world over would also make a miracle happen at this centre, by materializing a Shiva Lingam. This was a notice in advance to us. With throbbing hearts, the devotees were looking forward to the great event that was going to occur that evening at the bhajan.

The bhajan was over and there was no sign of the Linga anywhere. A few ardent devotees combed the flower heap by the side of Swami's large picture near the alter, but their search was of no benefit.

Swami had also directed that His personal room in this center be opened for devotees to have darshan after the bhajan that day. I opened the room and a flash of light from Swami's table situated near His chair blinded me for a moment. On a closer look I was enchanted to see a gold plated tray with a beautifully carved Shiva Linga bathed in Vibhooti . Devotees filed into the room one by one in silence to have darshan of the Linga.

Vidya whom we had met earlier in this book had visited one of Swami's students and her friend at Puttaparthi during our group's pilgrimage. The friend had handed

over to Vidya the elegantly carved beautiful silver tray on which Swami had placed the Linga which He had materialized in a previous year. This is a memorable souvenir and it is on this tray that the Shiva linga given by Swami is placed. (See Picture of Shivalinga on page 59 in the chapter of The Shivalinga)

On the 27th of February in 2014, the night before the Sivaratri celebrations commenced in Puttaparthi and elsewhere in India, we had scheduled to have bhajans in our room in the ashram, together with three other Sai families from Sri Lanka. This bhajan commenced immediately after the Samadhi darshan at Sai Kulwant Hall to make it convenient for some of the doctors and others from the Super Speciality Hospital to attend. Just prior to this bhajan, a small brass Nandi (the sacred bull vehicle of Lord Shiva) appeared on the altar on which some pictures of Swami and the Paaduga were kept by us for our daily prayer. As the bhajan was to commence, we also saw a brass statue of Lord Shiva and an ebony shivalinga. The devotees who came to our room were so blissful that they began worshiping the three idols.

On the 28th of February, Puttaparthi was a sea of heads and it was impossible to attend the Shivaratri proceedings in the Sai Kulwant Hall. Hence we had a Linga pooja for the three idols followed by bhajans. About twenty five devotees attended this bhajan session after which they went back to Sai Kulwant Hall hoping to find space.

Early next morning we observed two more brass statues of Lord Shiva together with two miniature statues of Lord Shiva and two more ebony lingam.
We had directions to give away all the statues except the Nandi and one statue each of Lord Shiva and the linga to be kept in our shrine room.

When we returning home to Sai Malar center in Sri Lanka in early March 2014 and on opening the door we were taken aback by what we saw. The coloured bulbs around Swami's picture in the hall was twinkling and one brass oil lamp filled with oil and a flame burning in the shrine room. This was one of the brass oil lamps which had been polished and put away in a bag before we left on our pilgrimage to Puttaparthi. Incomprehensible are the ways of Swami for He has once again shown us that He is present simultaneously at various places – He is omnipresent.

The Marble Statue

Sometime in March 2012, we were due to leave on a pilgrimage to Puttaparthi with one of the two long time lady devotees who attended bhajans at our center regularly. Whilst in Puttaparthi, we had information that the other lady devotee who did not accompany us, as she was due to leave to a foreign country, had suddenly changed her mind and wished to be in Puttaparthi with us. She had been most adamant and had refused to travel with us when we requested her and hence we were surprised at the sudden turn of events.

At Puttaparthi, she had casually visited another long time devotee known to her, a professional and owner of a Company. It appears that during their conversation the friend had asked the lady devotee whether she would like to receive one of the five statues of Swami which his friend at Jaipur was sculpturing to be presented to five of Swami's centers in the world. This lady devotee told me later that she did not know what prompted her but she had a compelling desire to agree to the request of her professional friend. Her intention had been to have the statue gifted to our center. Nonetheless, she had feared at that time to break the news to me as I would have then admonished her for not consulting me before she agreed to her friend's request. So instead she had mentioned this news to my daughter knowing fully well that my daughter would carry the news to me.

My daughter cautiously mentioned to me that the center is likely to be the recipient of one of the five large

marble statues of Swami that a philanthropist sculptor in Jaipur, was sculpturing. This did not rouse my interest as I had never imagined that this center would receive a life size marble statue from an unknown but famous sculptor. I dismissed this idea from my mind as one that would never materialize because after all we are only a private home conducting bhajans. There are other public centers especially in the city which are conducting Sai activities. Who then were we to receive such a precious and expensive gift from an unknown source?

Time went by and more information was trickling in. Copies of e-mails received by the lady devotee of whom I had mentioned in the first paragraph were shown to me and she asked me whether I would be happy to have a marble statue of Swami installed at this center. Naturally I attempted to extract more details to decide on what answer I should give. Since this lady is well known to our family and is a person who will not part with information more than is necessary, my attempt was like extracting water from stone.

In April of the same year, I became aware that a donor in Jaipur is in fact gifting five statues of Swami to five different centers in the world. The lady devotee sent me a picture of the statue before it was given the final touches and asked whether we were satisfied with the facial features of Swami. We were unhappy as the facial resemblance of Swami was not of Him. A few days later the lady devotee who had been corresponding with her friend in Puttaparthi mentioned to me that the facial resemblance had been surprisingly corrected and the

statue was ready for arrival in Colombo. Questions arose in my mind as to who could have done the corrections to a statue which was receiving the final touches. My conclusion was that the Lord seemed to have read our mind and had made the necessary corrections.

When the Sculptor was making arrangements to air lift the statue, he was informed by the two cargo Air Lines serving Colombo that due to the excess weight of this statue of nearly 500 kilograms the Air Lines were unable to carry the statue. We required the statue for inauguration at this center on the 24th of April 2012 being the first anniversary after Swami attained Maha Samadhi and it was only a few days ahead. It seemed impossible to me to have the statue installed on that date as we had hoped.

The intended arrival of the statue was kept under wraps known only to a handful of devotee families including the two lady devotees who were instrumental in bringing this statue to our center. Two of the other devotees were those whose assistance we had sought to explore ways and means of receiving the statue at least before the 27th of April, the date on which His body was lowered into the vault at Sai Kulwant Hall, even though it seemed an uphill task. One devotee, Kumar a businessman, voluntarily undertook to forego a part of his goods to be loaded into a container in Mumbai on a ship to enable the statue to be brought to our center before the 27th of April. The donor sculptor was not known to Vidya nor to Kumar who was going to ship the statue. However Kumar through his business contacts in Mumbai and

with the grace of the Lord was able to locate and persuade the sculptor to transport the statue in a crate from Ahmadabad to Mumbai overnight just prior to the ship sailing to Colombo.

In Mumbai harbor the usual documentation process was slow. Once again by the grace of the Lord everything fell in place when the harbor Customs Officers observed that the crate contained a statue of Swami needed for a center in Sri Lanka and waived off the necessity to open the crate for verifications.

We were informed that the sailing time would be about two and half days from Mumbai to Colombo. Time was critically important as there was a storm during this period and ships were reluctant to sail from Mumbai. We had tense moments about the arrival of the statue in time. However Kumar who was tirelessly monitoring the movement of the vessel announced to us that the ship would arrive in Colombo on the evening of the 25th of April. This was a temporary relief from the stress we were undergoing.

Once again Kumar told us that due to very bad weather conditions there were rows of ships outside Colombo harbor waiting to be berthed and that this particular vessel had to wait its turn. He gave us an assurance that he will use every effort to have the container unloaded as soon as possible. This again was another test by Swami and caused us concern.

On the night of the 25th April when rains were lashing the city I was informed that the crate containing the statue was cleared even without opening it for verification and was being loaded into a truck. The time was 7.30 pm and it was then that a thought passed through my mind as to how we were to carry the statue of such heavy weight to the shrine room on the upper floor of our home. Even though everybody present gave a helping hand in an attempt to lift the statue, the statue could not be moved. Time was ticking away and we had tried all options failing which at mid night we decided to leave the statue on the ground floor till the next day which was a Thursday.

On Thursday morning 26th of April, we resolved that the only other alternative was to request a furniture mover company to bring the statue to the upper floor as they had the expertise in the field. Just then help came in form of another God send devotee, a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police. He had a friend, also a devotee of Swami, working for a company that used boom trucks to move weighty items. This DIG devotee expressed that his friend's services could be utilized. The boom truck arrived but I was worried about the operation of lifting the statue of such heavy weight by a crane and placing the statue on the upper floor. My anxiousness became worse when I saw the statue in midair for if the statue should fall the most precious gift would be lost. Further should the statue hit the balcony railings in the process of landing it could cause considerable damage to the building not owned by me. However the chanting of Sai Gayatri mantra in harmony by the few lady devotees

present began to build confidence in me. Once the statue landed safely on the balcony the statue was moved into the room by placing galvanized pipe pieces under it and rolling it along and I breathed a sigh of relief.

We were all in the main hall when the statue of Swami with His smiling face and one hand raised in abhayahasta blessing entered the shrine room at twelve noon on Thursday the 26th of April 2012 to the mangala varthiam CD played on the musical setup while Bhagawan's statue was sitting serene in the shrine room (see picture in the next page).

Simultaneously the bells of a Devi temple in the vicinity quite unaware of the happenings in our home began pealing for the noon pooja and it seemed it was the welcome accorded to Swami at our home. Tears welled in the eyes of all devotees.

The lady devotees present commenced singing the aarthi while camphor flames were being waved to the loud echoes of "Sai Ram". It was a solemn occasion to receive one of the greatest Avatar's who walked the earth.

In the meantime, we had to reschedule the program of the Hindu temple priest to perform a homam for the statue for the next day 27th April 2012 followed by a grand bhajan.

On the 27th evening two Doctors from Puttaparthi Super Speciality Hospital, who had arrived to participate in the

ceremonies and two other devotees anointed Swami's head with oil dipped with a single blade of lemon grass.

The priest who had by then completed the chanting of the Vedic mantras lit the sacred fire from the pieces of wood placed on top of each other soaked in ghee in the outer hall. He walked into the shrine room with Holy water and milk. He bathed the statue while the devotees stood in silence emotionally moved. Garlands of flowers were placed around Swami and Rose petals showered by devotees. This was followed by a bhajan which ended with aarthi being waved to the statue of Swami. Profound devotion pervaded the shrine room. This occasion left a lasting impression on the devotees of the most unforgettable event as they stood with clasped hands in perfect silence waiting for their turn to drop a few flowers at the lotus feet of the Lord. Undoubtedly this was a momentous juncture celebrated with great piety.

The Marble Statue

The Smiling Picture

I had admired a large and beautiful smiling picture of Swami taken in his younger days. In this picture, He seems to have a twinkle in His eye and a mischievous smile.

It is strange that Swami should have given this picture to us on three different sizes on three different occasions.

The first occasion was in the year 2002 when I purchased a smaller version of this picture at Trichinapalli and had it framed with chasing coloured bulbs around the frame just the day previous to our returning to Sri Lanka. His smile in this picture resembles that of Mona Lisa painted by the famous Italian painter Leonardo da Vinci in the middle ages (see first picture on the front cover)

When I had the picture framed, I had not realized what was in store for me. The next day at the Trichinapalli airport we were in the queue to leave our baggage on the scanning machine. This picture had been wrapped in paper and I was carrying it as hand luggage to avoid the glass from being damaged. The customs officer summoned me to leave the package I had in my hand also on the scanning machine. It was then that I realized that I would not be permitted to take the picture as it had been wired and was with coloured bulbs around the frame.

The officer questioned me and noting that it was a large and bulky framed picture insisted that the picture cannot be carried as hand luggage and that it be put in with the other baggage into the hold of the Aircraft. He had not known that the picture had been wired. I pleaded with him that it was a picture of Swami and that I be permitted to take it along with me as cabin baggage. He did not wish to relent. Another officer who I guessed was a devotee of Swami observing our conversation intervened and permitted me to take the picture provided it was kept in the cabin of the aircraft.

At last I was so happy and did not realize that I had wasted much time arguing with an officer attempting to convince him.

I had hence to rush to the immigration counter to have my passport stamped. It was then that the immigration officer said that my visa had expired the previous day which I had failed to note and asked me to wait behind. This then was the second hurdle. Thoughts flashed through my mind as to whether I would be permitted to board the aircraft or face the consequences of a fine to be imposed, and also miss the flight for another date. This would have been an indefinite wait as airline bookings were always full on that sector and I was at the tail end of my leave from my office.

After much cross talk with the immigration officer and my repeating Swami's name within me he finally conceded with a warning that I should always peruse my travel document before entering an airport.

I had only a few minutes to go, before departure time of the aircraft and found that every passenger had boarded the air craft. The waiting hall was empty and I was sweating and fretting. Just then I saw another officer requesting me to put my hand luggage through the last scanner before boarding the air craft. Fear gripped me once again and I said to myself "what that picture again"?

The officer asked me what the package contained, and I replied that it was a picture of Swami. He sent the package through the scanner twice for he had asked me whether the picture was wired and I prayed to Swami and told Him that He knew that the picture was in fact wired and recited Swami's name silently without giving the officer an answer. Fortunately he didn't want me to open the package. If I had confirmed that the picture was wired he would surely have confiscated it after all the trouble taken by me to have it wired and framed.

Strangely and miraculously the scanner did not disclose any details. I was so delighted to be let off the hook when this very same officer told me to go quickly to board the plane. We dragged the bags and walked briskly sweating all the way. We were embarrassed when everybody in the aircraft looked at us as we were the last passengers to enter the air craft after several last calls were sent to the terminal calling out our names.

To return to the main story, it is strange that it was this very same picture (see first picture on front cover) and

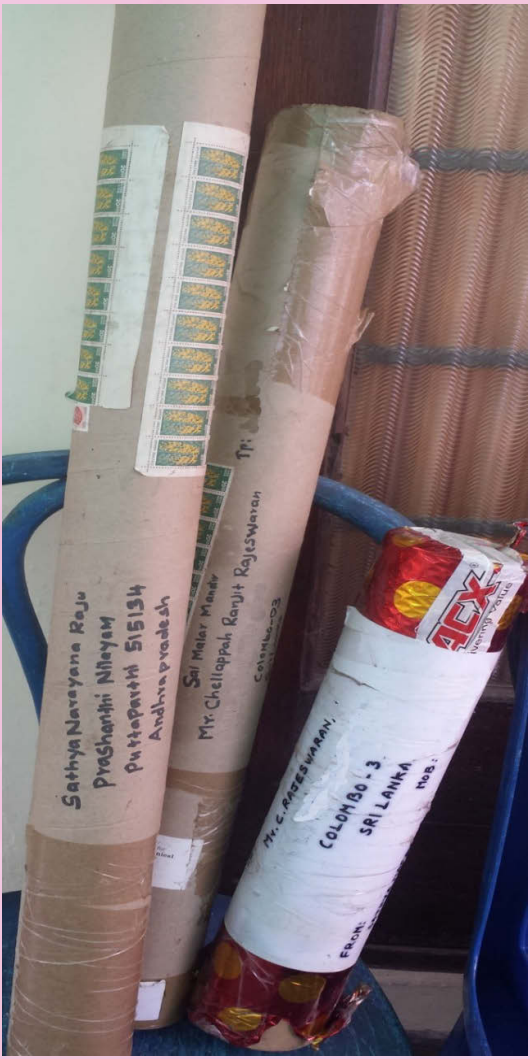
no other that was placed against the wall in the endoscopy room of the Super Speciality Hospital many years later when I was wheeled into the room for Endoscopy.

Again it is a miniature of this smiling picture beautifully framed which Swami gifted to us the day we had the Paaduga Pooja in February 2012 in our room at the "Prasanthi Nilayam" ashram (see story on "The Paaduga") . This is the second occasion on which we received this smiling picture, this time from Swami.

In November 2012 just two weeks prior to Swami's birthday, I received a telephone call from my daughter who had just returned home after her work. She told me that a man in very simple dress had come home in an auto rickshaw and phoned for me. Since I was not at home he had requested somebody at home to come to the gate to take delivery of a roll addressed to me personally. This time too, the roll had several Indian postage stamps pasted on it, adding up to the value of Rs.640.00. My daughter having taken charge of it opened the tin cap at one end of the roll and drew out very large picture 5 feet by 4 feet of Swami. To the amazement of all of us, it was the very same smiling picture of Swami. (see first photograph on cover page)

Within me I had a compelling thought arising that the picture should be framed and put up on the wall in time for Swami's birthday. With little time left before the birthday, I was in a quandary as to how I could accomplish this task. Fortunately for me it was Vidya

once again who volunteered to relieve me from the burden of work to have the picture framed as quickly as possible. However even though the picture had been framed in a beautiful golden frame just the day before the birthday, I could not find sufficient space on the walls in the living room to put up the picture. We had necessarily to space out other pictures on the wall in the living room to accommodate this large picture just after the celebrations of 23rd of November. All devotees who came for the bhajan admired this picture as it seems so realistic. Viewing this picture daily is to have His darshan and perhaps that was the reason for His wanting the photograph in the living room where it is visible to all devotees.



Smiling Picture - Roll Sent by Swami

The Courier Man

In November 2011, months after Swami attained Maha Samadhi, one day a member of my family received a call on her mobile phone. The phone showed the callers number as an unknown number. The caller as I learnt later from my daughter had wanted to speak to me and deliver a courier parcel. He had indicated that he was standing by our gate at the ground floor. My daughter was going down the flight of stairs and I asked her the reason for her hurry. She merely said that somebody from a courier office had come. When she came back with a roll she opened it and while doing so she said the delivery man had said that he had come the previous day also and since there had been no one at our home he had taken the roll back. The man according to her was well dressed and young in age and had come in an auto rickshaw which had been kept waiting.

While she was opening the roll I observed that the parcel was from "Prasanthi Nilayam", Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh.

I had nobody known to me at "Prasanthi Nilayam" who could send me a courier parcel. Having opened the roll we discovered a small picture of not much significance of Lord Vithala (Vishnu) and his consort of Pandharpur. It was the hand written invoice inside the roll which on perusal indicated the price to be Indian rupees twenty. What perturbed us was the signature of the sender on the invoice. We were clear in our minds from the first two letters of the signature which were "Ra….." as to the

name of the sender. It must be kept in mind that this document was received many months after Swami left His physical body.

A few days prior to the receipt of this courier roll Swami made it known to us that we will receive a very valuable gift. We thought that we were to receive a valuable boon but discovered that the gift was much more valuable than any other material gift. The roll also contained Prasad from Pandharpur a temple we had never made a pilgrimage to, though we have read much about this ancient shrine.

Here is another similar experience. Some weeks later we had another courier delivery. This time the mobile number was displayed on the roll. The roll was wrapped in an expensive wrapping paper and was addressed to me. On an examination of the roll we were alarmed to note that the sender's name was hand written as "Sathya Narayana Raju, Prasanthi Nilayam"….

In the roll there were three beautiful large photographs. Two of them were of Devi in different forms and one of our beloved Lord. We were extremely sad to note that His photograph showed Swami with tears welled in His eyes. On our asking Swami the reason His answer was that He had appeared to His students in that form. These pictures were framed and have found suitable places in the living and the shrine room.

Swami by sending these and mailing pictures to an insignificant devotee has humbled me greatly.

Courier Rolls

A Student of Swami

Brother Vivek Saho was a student of Swami's college in Puttaparthi. He is very devoted to Swami and remains engaged in activities connected with the Sai Organization and works for a private Bank in Mumbai.

In July 2012, Vivek came to Sri Lanka for the first time on a private visit, on the invitation of his friend Mithun, an Indian national working in Colombo. Mithun and his father attend bhajans at our house, regularly. So Vivek expressed his desire to come to our home to attend bhajans. We had heard that he had many experiences with Swami. We therefore requested him to talk to the devotees attending our bhajans on a particular day. The talk was a disclosure of some marvelous experiences and was most inspiring and well presented. So much so the devotees requested that we ask Vivek to talk more on a second occasion on another day. In the meantime, Vivek who had been married recently had requested his wife who was in India to join him in Sri Lanka. The couple with their friend wished to come to our home to have darshan of Swami's shrine room.

As Vivek told us later, his wife had requested Vivek to buy a saree for her to wear during her stay in Sri Lanka. Quality sarees in Sri Lanka are expensive as they are of Indian origin and so Vivek was in a quandary and had not bought the saree. When his wife arrived at our home with Vivek, all of them prayed in the shrine room and to everyone's astonishment, there was a box which when opened contained a beautifully worked

expensive Indian saree. The note on the board read "give this to Vivek". This was a surprise to the young couple. It was at this point in time that Vivek revealed to us that his wife had wanted him to purchase a saree almost similar in design texture and colour as the one in the box presented by Swami.

This episode illustrates that Swami has no difficulty in reading the minds of devotees and granting them what they deserve.

Then on the second day when Vivek spoke to the devotees of his experiences, Swami's message on the board directed us to give him an expensive wrist watch materialized by Him, which was in a box lying on His chair.

The couple was so happy and expressed their desire to visit the center once again during their next holiday in Sri Lanka.

The Door Chime

Let me now tell you an awesome incident relating to the door chime

In 2009, when we were at Puttaparthi, one day after the evening bhajan, we came to our room and were surprised to see a small box on the bed. On a close examination I noted that the box contained a door chime reciting the "Gayatri Mantra". I never wished to fix this door chime at our home for the loud noise from it would disturb our non-Hindu neighbors. Hence the door chime was put away in the wardrobe. None of us had purchased this door chime and it was plain as a pike staff that it was a gift from Swami and His intention was to have it fixed at our home.

Three years after, in 2012 just before Swami's birthday, the rooms were being cleaned and the necessary decorative material which were stored away were being taken out to decorate the home for the birthday. I had long forgotten about this door chime but in our search for the other items, this box surfaced.

My family was keen that we should fix this doorbell as it was a gift Swami gave us before He left His physical body. Soon an electrician fixed this doorbell but the sound of the bell was loud as I had expected. The bell when pressed recited the "Gayatri Mantra" which was soothing and brought peace in the home. Each time the bell was rung, most often without our knowledge we joined the two hands in prayer forgetting all other

matters. The day after the bell was fixed I was awake in bed at three in the morning and the chime broke the stillness of the night when it recited the mantra. We wondered whether somebody had entered the compound despite the gate being locked, fear agitated in my mind. With fright, I slowly opened the door and flashed the torch. I could see nobody.

One day after the bhajan when all the devotees had left, we locked the front door as is usual and each one of us was busy in the other sections of the house. The door chime went off and I opened the door in the hope that it was a devotee who had been unable to come for the bhajan but wished to have Swami's room darshan. When I found nobody at the door or anywhere on the stairway I locked the door once again. The bell rang a second time, my daughter opened the door but could find no one and she shut the door and she appeared disappointed.

The third time the bell rang we decided that we will not open the door. After a while there was a message on the mobile phone stating that it was Swami who had rung the bell and wanted us to open the door as He had come with His bag.

His message compelled us out of curiosity to open the door and what we saw made our blood run cold. There was a medium sized suitcase on the balcony. None of us dared to lift it as we were more petrified now.

We thought for a while as to what we should do. I decided boldly to carry the bag to Swami's personal room. The bag was very heavy and then I opened it. Inside the suitcase were groceries, sugar candy, condiments, clarified butter and other edibles. The next message said that they were from Him to us as we needed quality items from India for making Prasad.

It then occurred to me that a few months previously while shopping in Chennai for these items I had warned my family that I cannot carry heavy bags of the items alone up the stairs to our home. Swami the compassionate one had perhaps heard me and helped me thus satisfying the needs of the home for these items by bringing them to our door step.

The bell continues to go off at all times of the day and unearthly hours of the night. Most often we forgetfully open the door and find nobody. Swami must be chuckling away that he has played truant with us on such occasions. On each such occasion the door is opened, a strong and celestial perfume fragrance pervades the air in the adjoining living room for a few minutes.

The Personalized Plate

In this episode the names of the officials have been withheld.

Let me tell you this spectacular miracle. An official of the Sai Organization was due to visit this center and speak to the devotees. All too suddenly on the eve of his departure to his home abroad, he decided that, he needed to cancel the scheduled visit to our home. This we learnt was for the reason that he had to complete an important assignment before he left Sri Lanka.

We had received a confirmation from this official's office about his likely visit to our centre. Nevertheless we had cautioned the devotees that the official's visit was only a possibility. Through an abundance of caution, this was before we were informed of the cancellation of the appointment by his office. In the meantime not wanting to take a chance, we had decided to present him with a suitable memento to commemorate his intended visit to this center in the event he decided to visit after completing his assignment.

We thought it appropriate to emboss a picture of Swami's Icon in the center on a white ceramic plate with the wordings "OM SRI SAI RAM - COMMEMORATION OF THE VISIT OF (NAME WITHHELD) TO SAI MALAR CENTRE COLOMBO "printed along the circumference of the plate.

When the official expressed his inability to attend at our center we needed to phone all devotees of the cancellation of the bhajan on that day which had also been scheduled following the official's talk to the devotees.

Cancellation of the bhajan was not the problem, but what should we do with the plate which was ready with the official's name embossed on it.

One option was to let the officer, who had accompanied this official, hand over the plate to the official on behalf of Sai Malar center. But then it was inappropriate as the plate indicated that it was in commemoration of that particular official's visit which had not taken place. We then decided to give the plate to the other officer who had accompanied the official when he attended the bhajan the next day. This again was not appropriate as the plate had the name of the official embossed on it and not that of the second officer.

It was at this point in time that Swami who had been perhaps watching the drama unfolding had a message which read "have the grand bhajan on the date as decided without cancellation. Call the other Officer to attend. Give me the plate I will change the name. Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE". Yet I felt skeptical about Swami changing the name and my monkey mind doubted that it was not possible. Nevertheless prompted by my inner voice I had no choice but to comply with Swami's order and placed the plate on the carpet in the shrine room.

Next morning we were completely bewildered when we saw the identical plate with the name of the second officer printed after expunging the name of the official and the date also changed.

There was also a message asking me whether I was happy. Indeed Swami, we are enthralled. To those followers of Swami who keep saying that Swami is no more and cannot cause miracles to occur, this episode is an eye opener, for nothing is impossible for Swami. The episode demonstrates that Swami takes care of His devotees in distress.

Thought for the Day

In this chapter, I have attempted to spell out excerpts of a few of the Thoughts for the Day read at this center. Swami's teachings are too vast and beyond time to be condensed into a few pages. The crux of all His teachings are His assertions "LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL" , "HELP EVER, HURT NEVER." and these ideals are the ones for which He dedicated His life and are inscribed on His Marble Tomb in Sai Kulwant hall.

Once the thought for the day, which most devotees at this center appreciated, read "**the good you do today will be forgotten. Anyway always do good. Honesty and frankness makes you vulnerable, but you be honest and frank. People really need help but they may attack you if you do not help them. Always help them – say "Sai Ram". Whoever does bad to you in whatever way you all as my children should not attack them. You are my children.**

Give the world the best you have and you will get a kick in the teeth. Don't worry you go on with your duty. All of you chant my name. I am always there to help you at any moment. Now I have more time to spend on you all".

Reading the above message my thought goes to the immense welfare measures which Swami gave this world, such as the water supply scheme, medical and educational facilities which transformed the lives of

lakhs of His people and these people became His devotees. It is not only the poor, but even the rich benefitted by His welfare measures. He always gave but did not ask. Whatever donation received was given to the Trust to be used for the various activities and services.

Nevertheless the wicked and the fourth estate shamelessly maligned Him as a fraud and thus kicked Him in His teeth. They did so as they could not bear His powers of omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. As Professor Anil Kumar had said Swami now makes more miracles happen all over the world than when He was in His physical form. Even after His physical body is no more, our Lord has not forgotten His devotees who continuously chant His name.

Ever since Swami left His physical form on the 24th of April 2011 he is remembered especially on that date every month by holding bhajans or satsang at this center. On such days Swami permitted the devotees present to have darshan of His personal room (see page 80). Every such day bundles of post card and occasionally stamp size photographs of Swami mysteriously appear on the table for distribution to devotees. Most of the wordings on those photographs are **“I will not leave you”, “I am with you all”, “I have not gone” “I am alive why worry be happy”.**

Another thought for the day read **“where ever you go do your duty. Realize that I am within you and am guiding you. I am with you when you take every step. In the years to come you will be able to see Me in**

different forms. You are Mine. You are very close to Me. Just as the eye lashes protect the eye, I will protect you. I will never desert you. You will never be able to leave Me."

"From this minute onwards do not expect anything when you perform your duties. Perform your duties with boundless love. Learn to see God in everything. Be patient. When the time comes you will receive everything you wish. Be happy. Do not be unhappy over anything."

We may pray to Swami for something but He will make us wait and our supplication will be answered in His own time. People however do not want to wait but Swami keeps saying "wait, wait have patience".

In another Thought for the Day "…. Some people say You have gone, you are crazy over Sai Baba. Now He is no more Why do you still pray to Him?"

In April 2013 a Thought for the Day seemed to be Swami's answer "…. **Some say Sathya Baba is no more. He is gone. How can I go leaving you all. How stupid they are. I am alive moving with you all daily. Maha Samadhi is just a name given by you. Who said I am in it?...."**

Swami's advice once read "…. **I will be guiding you all if you have faith in Me. Do your duty with unwavering love.**

Once a Doctor wanted to refer a patient to a top specialist in that field of sickness. The Doctor asked Swami what he should do. Swami said **"No, give vibhooti. The moment vibhooti touches the patient's forehead he is referred to Me and it becomes My responsibility to take care of him. Vibhooti is your note to Me."**

To those who question Swami about His miracles the answer was in another Thought for the Day **"… Some of you are good at gossip. You want to know how I make miracles happen… I would say to them you should cleanse yourself with good thought and concentrate on Me. No one has the right to question My actions.**

Some devotees and followers left the organization in the aftermath of the Maha Samadhi. To them the following words of Swami are relevant **"…. Some of you left not because you do not like Me but because you did not get anything from Me… embodiments of love have faith and trust Me. I will never harm you.**

"Those who stay away from Me will come again to Me".

Brother Rajendra the Administration Officer at the Brindavan Ashram once gave me a few papers and requested me to have copies made for distribution among the devotees who attend bhajans at this centre. One of the documents is captioned GOD EXISTS and interestingly it seems to be a good logical answer to

those who say that there is No God. Some of Swami's denigrators have heckled Him as a magician and Not as God. This paper is therefore very apt and it reads; -

"A man went to a barber shop to have his hair cut.

As the Barber began to work they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the Barber said "I don't believe that God exists".

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the streets to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all these things."

The customer thought for a moment but did not respond because he did not want to start an argument. The Barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the Barber Shop he saw a man in the street with long stringy dirty hair. He looked dirty and unkept.

The customer turned back and entered the Barber shop again and he said to the Barber "You know what? Barber's do not exist"

“How can you say that?” asked the surprised Barber. I am here and I am a Barber and I just worked on you”

“No” the customer exclaimed. “Barbers don’t exist because if they did there would be no people with dirty long hair like that man outside”

“Ah but Barbers DO exist” answered the Barber.

“What happens is people do not come to me”

“exactly”

affirmed the customer.

“That’s the point God TOO DOES EXIST. What happens is people don’t go to HIM and do not look for HIM. That is why there is so much pain and suffering in the world.”

Of Swami’s most important teachings is Non-violence and vegetarianism. Non-violence not only to human beings but also towards other living beings. Readers will know that Swami discouraged cart racing in His village as the poor animals are flogged by competing men to win the race as pure egotism.
Eating Non-vegetarian food most often causes dangerous diseases such as Cancer and Heart ailments .why must man then live on the flesh of animals and birds.

I had for nearly two years worked by fits and starts in the preparation of the manuscript of this book due to the intervention of personal matters which in my opinion needed priority. Swami perhaps had been watching me and a thought for the Day months later was I thought an indirect reference to me. **"……Use your time wisely in the current body. Complete your work given by Me successfully without delaying.**

I give each one some work to complete. Some ignore and attend to their own agenda. However big the task is complete the work with success offers it at My feet and gain My grace".

On Easwaramma Day Swami related a story thus **"one day mother Easwaramma was checking from house to house whether everything was fine. She tripped over a pile of bricks and sprained her leg. She was in pain. Some devotees took her to the nearest house. I came and asked her why she had to move from house to house. She replied SWAMI NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, FOR YOU CAN GET WORK DONE WITHOUT GOING ANYWHERE. SUCH A THING IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME.**

I want all of you to be like mother Easwaramma humble with no trace of ego. Always be loving…..".

In April 2012 Swami's marble statue was brought from Bombay into this house (see story of The marble statue on page 119) The Thought for the Day read **"I came through the rough seas sailing from India to Sri**

Lanka to be here with you all. All because you were calling out for Me with love….embodiments of love this is not just a marble statue. This is your SAI MA alive in this statue form…. You may forget God but God will not forget you for God is in everything everywhere from the ant to this marble statue so I am watching you all to change for me to come back."

Then on Maha Samadhi Day Swami had this to say **"…Today you all have got together to have the Maha Samadhi Day. Maha Samadhi occurs only once. According to Me it is not once. I have gone into Samadhi several times and have come to you all. Why do you all think that I am no more? I can come back to you at any time. I am waiting for my children to reform."**

Swami has often said faith and doubt do not exist together. **"As long as men doubt there will be curiosity and inquiry".** A Thought for the Day said **"your faith must prompt you to believe that nothing is impossible to God that is a strong faith that you should develop. Your mind questions you is it possible?, will it happen?, will it be a reality?, can it be done?. Everything is possible by Me…"** "When in doubt repeating the name of the Lord cures the monkey mind.

Swami's teachings are to be taken seriously yet He has time to play with all His devotees for He is Sai Ma to His devotees and plays with them to keep His children happy. Most readers of books written by devotees of

Swami would also be aware of the pun Swami plays on witty and wise words when He converses with His devotees joking liberally.

I will illustrate two instances of Swami's sense of mischief making which I am personally aware of. The first was in a Thought for the Day at this centre some years ago which read:-

"Without God your week will be:-

Monday – Mourn day
Tuesday – Tears day
Wednesday – Waste day
Thursday – Thirsty day
Friday – Fight day
Saturday – Shatter day
Sunday – Sin day
So love Me to be with you every day".

Once, the day before Swami's birthday, we realized that we had not practiced Suprabhatam. I was reciting this, when Dr. Dharam who had been visiting us heard me do so and wished to join me in the practice. I paused for a little while to tell Swami in my mind not to interrupt us. The moment we sang the last line of each stanza ("Sri Sathya Sai Bahagawan thava Suprabhatam"), Swami's message on the mobile phone asked us 'now why are you calling me'.

On performing service Swami says that the service should be selfless and is not limited to cleaning up places

or serving food but it also means that one's duties in office and home are performed with devotion. The best service Swami says is service to the mentally ill and the aged as such service is more meritorious.

OM SRI SAI RAM

Glossary

Aandaal	-	Lady Devotee of Lord Vishnu
Amrith	-	Divine nectar
Ashtotra	-	Recital of 108 names of the Deity or Lord
Abishek	-	Process of bathing the deity
Bhajan	-	Devotional group singing
Balaji	-	Another name for Maha Vishnu
Deepavali	-	Festival of Lights for Lord Vishnu
Dhanvantri	-	Avatar of Vishnu and a God of Ayurveda Medicine.
Gayatri	-	Five faced Goddess
Ganesh	-	Eldest child of Lord Shiva and Parvati
Hanumanji	-	Ardent devotee of Lord Shree Rama
Jalebies	-	Indian sweet meat made of sugar syrup and clarified butter.

Linga	-	Formless symbol of Lord Shiva
Maha Shivarathri	-	Day Lord Shiva was married to Goddess Parvati
Maha Lakshmi	-	Goddess of wealth and consort of Lord Vishnu
Mandir	-	Temple of Worship
Mrithyunjeyaya	-	Powerful Mantra of Lord Shiva chanted to overcome Death
Maha Samadhi	-	Conscious Departure of the body of a Realized Soul and is a place where His Physical body is interred
Naarayana pooja	-	A religious ritual for Lord Vishnu
Nagarasankirthanam	-	Procession of bhajan singers praising the Lord
Navaratri	-	Nine Nights dedicated to worship of Devi in Three Forms as Goddess of Valour, Wealth and Learning

Prasad	-	Holy offering (usually food)
Paaduga	-	Divine Feet of the Lord made of Silver or Gold.
Pooja	-	Ritual performed to Deities
Poorna kumbham	-	Silver or Brass vessel with sanctified water
Rudraksha Mala	-	Rosary made of the seeds of a holy tree, worn by sages
Skanda	-	Youngest child of Lord shiva and Goddess Paarvathi
Sphatikalingam	-	Oval shaped form made of Quartz for worshipping Lord shiva
Seva	-	Service
Suprabhatam	-	Songs sung to wake the Lord early morning
Vishnu	-	One of the Gods in the Hindu Trinity

Veda	-	Most ancient Hindu scripture in Sanskrit
Yajur Mandir	-	Divine abode of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Yagnam	-	Ritual to invoke God for his Blessings

Never was there a time when
I did not exist nor you nor
all these Kings nor in the future
shall any of us cease to exist

Bhagavad Gita

Miraculous Journeys with Sai Ma